TanongngBayan/A18
Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

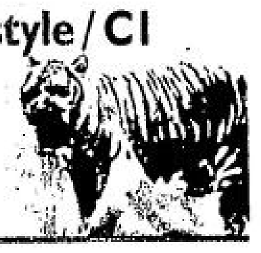
■ News / A2
Palace now pushing for freeze, not cut, in IRA

■ World / A12
Terrorism blamed for Russ jet crash

■ Magazine / Q1
Ronaldo Puno: Backroom to frontline

■ Sports / A28
Maroons stun Tams in UAAP

■ Lifestyle / C1
Zoo ahoy!



GMA blows top again

SINABING NO TALKING DURING CLASS!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MAYBE it's the schoolmarm in her.

The well-known temper of President Macapagal-Arroyo flashed again at her Pulong Bayan yesterday in Pandacan, Manila, ignited by her audience's apparent lack of

GMA/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

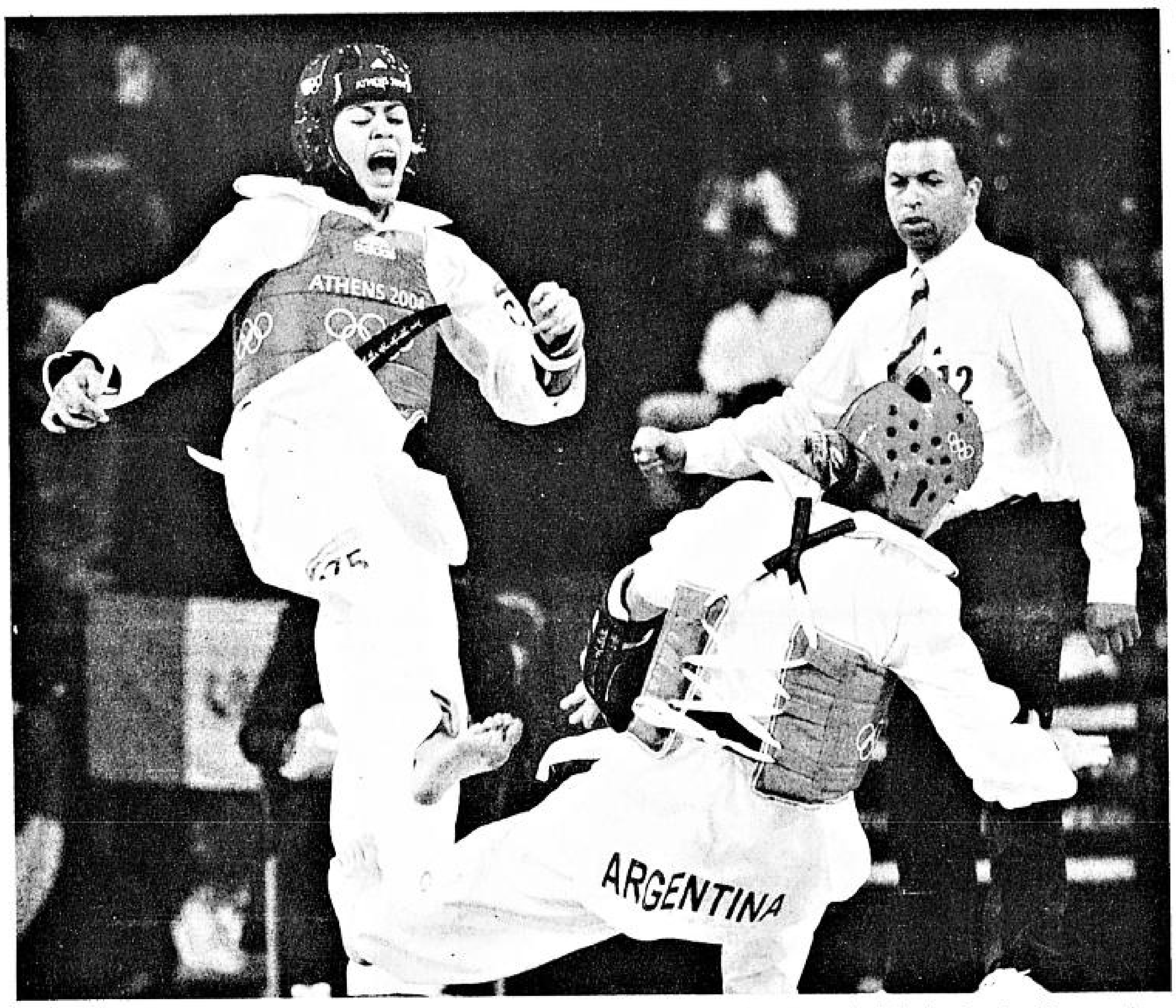
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, August 29, 2004 ★★★ ~~96~~ 104 pages / 12 sections / vol. 19 / no. 263 P18

VAL HANDUMON

WALKING on water President Macapagal-Arroyo is not. She is praying at the San Agustin Church in her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga, which continues to be inundated by flood waters from last week's heavy rains.

Gov't to cut perks, trips, overtime pay



THE PHILIPPINES' Mary Antoinette Rivero (left) holds her own in taekwondo against Argentina's Vanina Sanchez Beron at the Olympic Games. Rivero won the match.

AFP

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

AT HER inauguration nearly two months ago, she promised to run a government that would live within its means.

Now President Macapagal-Arroyo is preparing to sign an executive order that will implement austerity measures ranging from suspending overtime pay and new benefits for government employees to cutting down on foreign travel, seminars and parties in all government agencies, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"An EO adopting fiscal discipline measures is now in the works," Bunye said in his weekly View from the Palace. "These measures are expected to generate savings that will in turn be earmarked for the most vital and urgent pro-poor projects."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was also keen on making the Government Electronic Procurement System mandatory in the purchase of goods and services to ensure that the government would get the best price.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the EO would target savings of 10 percent in government salaries and overhead costs.

For example, she said, the government was aiming to achieve P400 million in savings from its fuel and electricity bills, which amounted to P4 billion last year.

Boncodin said the EO was aimed at contributing a substantial portion of the P20 billion in annual savings touted by the President in her appeal to Congress to approve her proposed tax package that would generate P80 billion in new revenues.

At the top of Ms Arroyo's proposed cost-cutting measures are the adoption of a system that will compensate government employees with additional time or days for their overtime work and putting a cap on new and additional benefits for officials and employees.

The other measures being considered by the President and her economic managers are curbing foreign and local travel by gov-

GOV'T/ A10

Pampanga folk learn to cope with disaster

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LUBAO, Pampanga—For people who survived one of the world's biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, the floods that swamped 16 of Pampanga's 20 towns this week did not seem like a terrible enough calamity that would break their spirits.

At 6 o'clock yesterday morning in Barangay Sta. Lucia in Lubao, 37-year-old Jun Capili squatted by a "lagoon" formed by overflowing fishponds and choking with water lilies, and threw out his padwas (bamboo hook with plastic string), hoping for a bite.

Before the morning was over, his pail was filled with three kilos of tilapia. His only problem now was where to get rice.

"This is enough for this day. We can do with this. Thank God for floods," the burly father of seven—known to his townmates by his nickname "Bombastic"—told the INQUIRER.

Kapampangans, whose ancestors were river-dwellers who settled in the middle of the basin-shaped Central Luzon region, have developed ways of coping with natural disasters.

Their severest test came 13 years ago when Mount Pinatubo erupted, burying portions of towns and villages under tons of lahar.

PAMPANGA/ A4

FACT BOX

Death and destruction
- **Dead:** 25
- **Injured:** 4
- **Landslides:** 17
- **Affected by floods:** 1.3 million people
- **Damage to property:** P478 million
- **Total damage to** agriculture and fisheries, as of Friday: P215 million
- **Affected provinces (partial list):** Ilocos Sur, Benguet, Ifugao, Mt. Province, La Union, Pangasinan, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Zambales, Bataan, Bulacan, Rizal.

RP jins blow medal hopes; Geisler lands in hospital

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Wiped out. Zero.

Glory came tantalizingly close Saturday before slipping from the grasp of the young girl tasked with the enormous job of winning the country's first ever gold medal in the Olympic Games.

Mary Antoinette Rivero lost a heartbreaking hometown decision to a local favorite in a defeat that ended the Philippines' run for a gold medal in the 28th Olympiad at the Faliro Sports Pavilion here.

And Donald Geisler III wound up in the hospital with a suspected broken left leg after his bid for a bronze medal ended abruptly in the repechage round.

Geisler was fighting for the bronze against Tunisia's Hichem Hamdouni with the scored tied at 7 in the second round when he came off a clash of kicks limping

RP JINS/ A21

2 PDI reporters bag business journalism awards

TWO INQUIRER business reporters bagged major awards during the 13th Economic Journalist Association of the Philippines-Globe Telecom Business Journalism Awards held at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati Wednesday night.

Doris Dumlao and Clarissa Batino were named "Best Reporter of the Year" in their respective beats in 2003, namely, the Securities and Exchange Commission/Philip-

2 PDI/ A10

There's now an ombudsman for green plaints

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

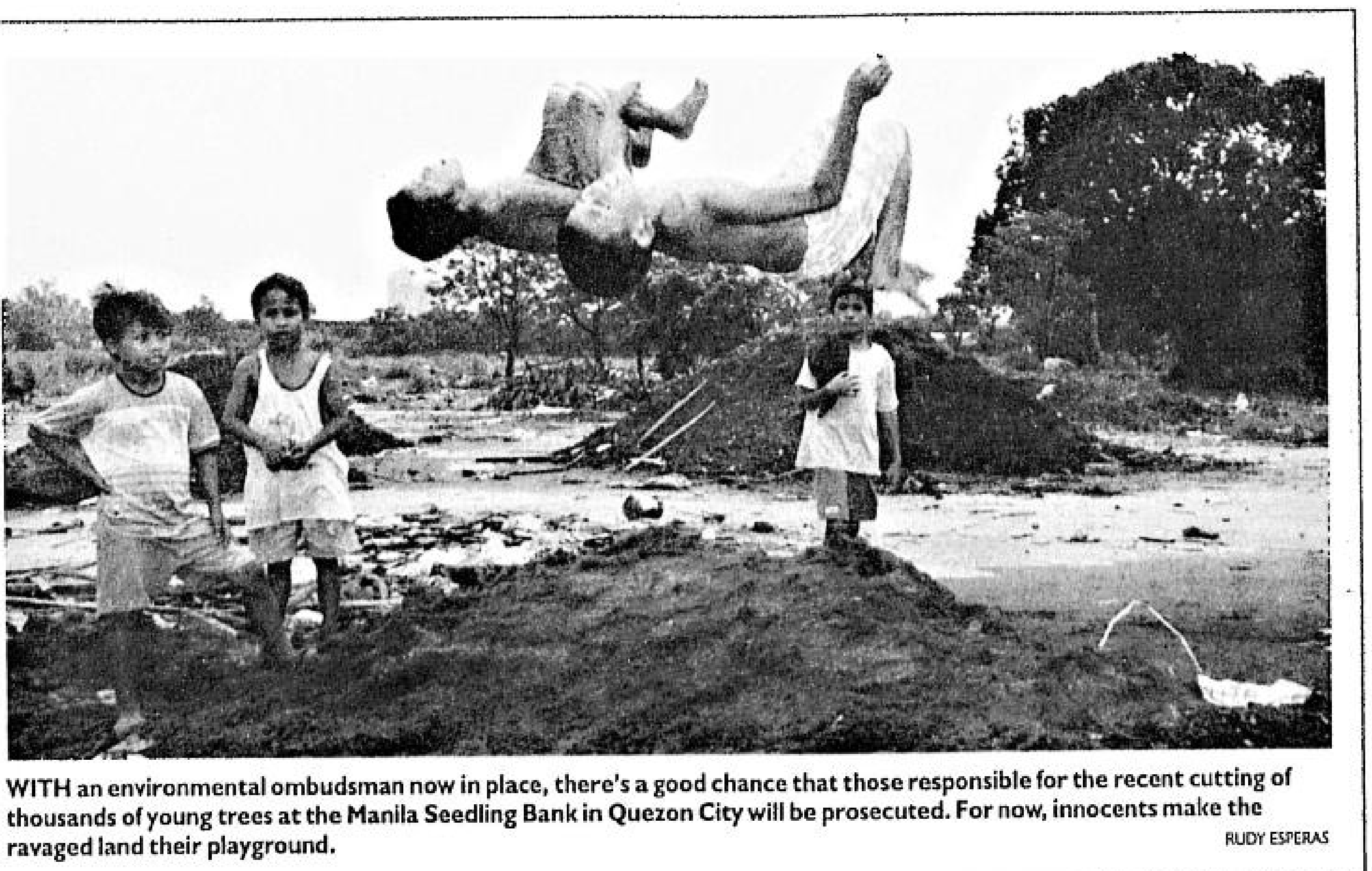
THIS is something green to crow about.

Now there is a government office that will receive and investigate complaints on erring persons or groups and, more important, government officials who fail to protect the environment or cause harm to Mother Earth through negligence, tolerance or connivance.

The Philippines' environmental ombudsman, lawyer Wilbert L. Candelaria, is said to be the first of his kind in the world. The new species he represents was spawned by the growing concern of environmental vigilantes and lobbyists over the wanton destruction of the country's natural resources and habitats and its people's apathy and neglect.

Candelaria, valedictorian of UP Law Class

THERE'S/ A21



WITH an environmental ombudsman now in place, there's a good chance that those responsible for the recent cutting of thousands of young trees at the Manila Seedling Bank in Quezon City will be prosecuted. For now, innocents make the ravaged land their playground.

RUDY ESPERAS

Opposition wary of GMA 'super pork'

By Michael Lim Ubac

AGREEING to cuts in the pork barrel of legislators and revenue allotments of local governments would give full monopoly and control over public funds to President Macapagal-Arroyo who had no "moral right" to the money, warned Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"If the intention is to place all the money within the control of the President so that she can monopolize the disbursement of funds of this country by her own self, then we question the premise because I do not think that the President has any moral ascendancy over us on the matter of allocating funds," the senator said.

OPPOSITION/ A10

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over the western section. The rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: D.J. YAP, PDI RESEARCH/08/29/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Monsoon Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Palace blinks; IRA to stay at '04 level

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MALACAÑANG now wants to freeze at its current level, instead of cutting back, the internal revenue allotment (IRA) of local government units (LGUs) amid snowballing resistance from governors and mayors to President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to get a chunk of their funds to avert a fiscal crisis.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that maintaining the current level of the IRA at P141 billion next year would still free up P10 billion in funds which the government could use to fund vital projects.

The IRA—where the LGUs get 40 centavos of every peso the government collects in taxes—is projected to rise to P151 billion next year.

Boncodin said that pegging the IRA at the current P141 billion level would be more palatable to the provinces, cities, towns and municipalities compared to the initial plan to reduce the IRA by up to a quarter or P35.25 billion, the maximum set under the Local Government Code.

In Lucena City, the president of the Quezon Municipal Mayors Association warned of chaos in the event the IRA for local government units was cut.

"There will be chaos all over the country," Candelaria Mayor David Emralino, also the provincial chair of the Lakas-CMD in Quezon, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. *(See related story on Page A17.)*

Emralino said Malacañang could not simply reduce or suspend the distribution of the IRA allocations for local governments.

"The Supreme Court had already declared it as unconstitutional," he said.

Emralino said that should the government slash the IRA, most local government officials would resort to begging for funds just to serve their constituents.

He said the IRA for his town amounts to P52 million and constitutes a big part of the town's annual budget of P76 million.

Ms Arroyo earlier admitted that the government was in a fiscal crisis. She suggested a reduction in the IRA which is allowed in times of unmanageable public sector deficit or the combined financing shortfall of the national government and state-owned companies.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi) said that in tandem with a freeze on the IRA, the government was also proposing to ask the LGUs to waive their 40 percent share of any new taxes that Congress might approve in the next few years.

The President had endorsed eight tax measures to raise P80 billion in additional revenues for the government. Salceda said a waiver from the LGUs would allow the government to use the entire P80 billion to trim the budget deficit.

Salceda said the purpose of the waiver was to generate immediate cash for the government, which is trying to avert the fiscal collapse that UP economists predicted would occur within the next two to three years.

Sans the extraordinary measures to boost revenues and cut costs, Salceda stressed that the Arroyo administration could only achieve its goal of a zero budget deficit by 2009. The government also aims to boost tax collection by 10 percent in the next five years while maintaining spending for government employees, social services and capital outlay at 2004 levels during the same period.

As this developed, Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala (LP, 2nd dist.) also protested the planned reduction of congressmen's "pork barrel" or the Priority Development Assistance Fund.

"These funds are the source of funding allocations for the delivery of basic social services to the remotest areas of the country. These funds help us bring the government closer to the people," Alcala said.

He conceded, however, that should the entire House membership decide to cut their respective allocations, "we have to bow to the will of the national leadership for the sake of unity during this troubling times."

"The last thing that the people would expect from government officials during this crisis is the selfish chorus of protestation to make sacrifice," Alcala said.

Private sector holds the key to fuel savings

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SUCCESS of the government's energy conservation program will depend largely on the cooperation of the private sector, which accounts for a very large percentage of the country's total oil and fuel consumption.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that some 3.4 million private vehicles nationwide account for 48 percent of the country's total fuel consumption annually.

Nationwide gasoline consumption is placed at four billion liters a year and diesel consumption at seven billion liters per year.

In the first five months of this year, total oil consumption reached 50.8 million barrels of oil. Of this, 37 percent was diesel; 22 percent, industrial fuel oil, and 20 percent, unleaded gasoline.

Of the country's total oil consumption, the transport sector accounted for 68 percent; the industrial sector, 14 percent; residential, eight percent, commercial, seven percent; agricultural, two percent, and others, one percent.

The government aims to reduce total oil consumption by at least 23 million barrels of oil to generate some $784 million in foreign exchange savings each year.

DOE data showed that of the total oil consumption of the transport sector, land-based vehicles accounted for 90 percent; sea-based vehicles, seven percent, and air-based, three percent.

Among the land-based vehicles, 79 percent are private vehicles; 19 percent are "for hire," while two percent are government-owned vehicles.

Last year, the number of private vehicles plying the country's roads grew 3.5 percent to about 3.4 million from 3.3 million in 2002.

The number of government vehicles, on the other hand, jumped 17.7 percent to 68,347 in 2003 from 58,142 the year before.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez has appealed to private vehicle owners to voluntarily adopt fuel conservation measures to help ensure the success of the government's drive to reduce fuel consumption.

Although the government accounts for only a small portion of nationwide transport fuel consumption, it has adopted fuel conservation measures for other sectors to follow.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered all government agencies to reduce their fuel and electricity consumption by at least 10 percent..

The government's National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program is seen to be in place for at least six months, particularly with the advent of the winter months in the western countries and the possible further increase in international oil prices.

National government offices consume P2 billion worth of fuel and P2 billion worth of electricity each year.

A 10-percent reduction in consumption, therefore, will not only result in less fuel imports but will also generate savings of at least P400 million for the government.

While the 10-percent energy consumption reduction is mandatory for government offices, it is not so for private companies and individuals.

But Perez said private citizens are being urged to voluntarily cooperate with the government in conserving energy.

"All of these are currently voluntary. We're still studying our options on mandatory implementation," he said. "We're still calibrating (the program). Right now, (compliance) is voluntary."

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DATE: Sept. 10, 2004 (Friday)
TIME: 1:00pm - 4:00pm
PLACE: Asia Pacific College
Fee: P300.00

Limited slots only. Certificates will be awarded to attendees.

For details and reservations:
Phone: 852-9670 to 71 look for Toni or Timi
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A Globe PLATINUM BABY Bash

Having a baby is always a cause for celebration. Especially when the *Baby* in question is the critically acclaimed, Tony-nominated musical by Richard Maltby, Jr., David Shire and Sybille Pearson. Globe Platinum graced the Philippine gala premiere of *Baby the Musical*, Atlantis Production's fifth anniversary presentation.

The Platinum set was treated to fancy pre-show cocktails where they rubbed elbows with fellow Platinum subscriber and *Baby*'s director Bobby Garcia and other members of the production. Among those seen enjoying the scrumptious antipasto were Ferdie Agustin of Bayo, AMA president Amable Aguiluz IX and wife Christine King Aguiluz, and ABS-CBN Foundation president Joe Guingona and wife Tina Delgado Aguiluz. Tinseltown denizens, led by Globe's favorite heartthrob, Piolo Pascual were also in attendance.

More than just a chronicle of the travails of having (or not having) a baby, *Baby* deals with the issues of love, commitment and identity in the modern world. When ambitious college senior Lizzie Fields (Lea Salonga) finds out that she is expecting, she immediately decides to keep the baby but shuns marriage, for fear that it might stifle her growth as a person and worse, leave her hurt in the process. Her boyfriend Danny Hooper (David Shannon), an aspiring musician with seemingly avant-garde sensibilities, realizes that he is traditional at heart and insists on being a husband and breadwinner. Nick and Pam Sakarian (Jett Pangan and Agot Isidro) are a loving couple whose relationship is strained by their unsuccessful attempts to have a baby, which they feel would validate their worth as husband and wife. Model parents Alan and Arlene McNalley (Miguel Faustmann and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo), on the other hand, face the prospect of raising another child in their golden years and, in the process, question whether their love for each other would survive without children.

The audience delighted in Maltby and Shire's musical score, brought to life by the stellar cast and the 20-piece orchestra conducted by *Baby*'s musical director Gerard Salonga. Lea Salonga delivered another powerhouse performance, exploring the nuances of a young woman coming to terms with her role as mother in "The Story Goes On." Women in the audience connected with Lea, Agot Isidro and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo when they sang the girl power ditty "I Want It All," and swooned when Jett Pangan and David Shannon sang their respective love songs, "At Night She Comes Home To Me" and "I Chose Right." The more mature guests laughed with merry wisdom when Miguel Faustmann compared the differences between loving children and wives in "Easier to Love." Complementing the main cast's performance were the versatile supporting players who effortlessly switched from one character to the next in the play's ensemble numbers.

Baby ended with a hint of optimism and romance in the air, leaving the Platinum crowd to contemplate the love in their lives and the relationships they keep, as they filed out of the Meralco Theater.

The Globe Platinum Privilege Club understands the meaning of lasting commitments and cherished bonds, with an array of personalized and exclusive services for its esteemed members. Existing Globe subscribers with a minimum monthly usage of P4,000 (excluding taxes and adjustments) for the last twelve months and with good credit standing are qualified for Globe Platinum membership, as are new subscribers of a G-Plan or fully consumable G-Flex Plan at P5,000, P7,000, or P10,000. Subscribe now and enter into a lifelong relationship with Globe Platinum.

Aivory and Anabel Gaw can't wait to see Baby.

Popular salon owner David Charlton with MC Ocampo and Platinum Account Manager Anna dela Rosa

Baby director and Platinum subscriber Bobby Garcia with Nonie and Jill Busuego

Globe Platinum Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon with Roel Tan, one of four lucky winners of prime Baby seats.

Baby choreographer Andy Alviz with Binibining Pilipinas 1st runner up Tracy Javelona and Ferdie Agustin of Bayo

Jose Mari Chan and wife Mary Ann make beautiful music and enjoy musical theater together.

Mila Drilon and companions make a grand entrance at the Meralco Theater.

Baby raffle winner Raymond Khosiking

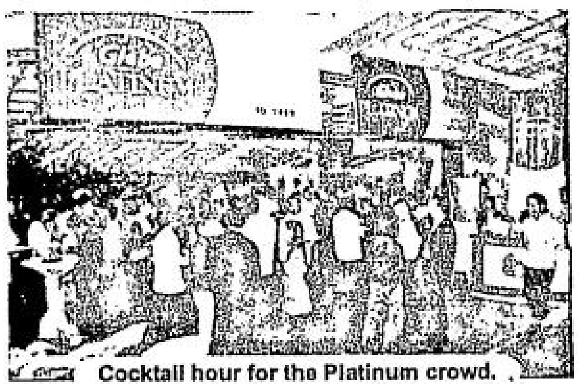
Globe Platinum's Nonie Busuego and Kristelle Dizon congratulate Lea on another sterling performance.

Nonie Busuego, Head of Globe Platinum and wife Jill, with Globe Platinum Senior Marketing Manager Kristelle Dizon, and Microsoft General Manager TJ Javier and wife Rose.

ABS-CBN Foundation president Joe Guingona and wife Tina, with friends Jan and Don Mika.

Vic Ochoa, DJ Timbol, Celine Jalandoni, and Chuchi Segovia enjoy the Platinum pre-show cocktails.

Globe's favorite heartthrob Piolo Pascual flanked by dedicated Platinum Account Managers Lindsay Dy Sun and Paul Velasquez.


Cocktail hour for the Platinum crowd.

CNN Asia Bureau chief Maria Ressa and Jeanette Ifurung catch the Baby fever.

Beautiful couple Paco and Christine Jacob Sandejas take a break from family life to watch Baby.

House body cleared Smokey project in 2000 inquiry

THE HOUSE of Representatives' committee on good government had declared valid the contract for the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project as early as four years ago.

The same committee also concluded that its private developer, R-II Builders Inc., was capable of handling the project.

The House inquiry, which raised similar issues raised by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago in a recent privilege speech, concluded that the bidding process involved in awarding the controversial SMRDP to R-II in 1992 was legal and aboveboard.

The 2000 investigation done by the House committee on good government also concluded that R-II Builders owned by businessman Reghis Romero "has the capability to undertake the project and has had this capability from the inception of the project."

Most advantageous

Contrary to Santiago's claims in her privilege speech that SMRDP was grossly disadvantageous to the government, committee report No. 1361 dated Jan. 8, 2001, said the "Smokey Mountain Project Proposal of R-II Builders Inc. was considered to be the most advantageous to the government" as affirmed in a November 1992 study.

Santiago alleged that R-II virtually incurred no risk in undertaking the SMRDP, but the House committee report showed that the company initially shelled out at least P300 million to get the SMRDP going and agreed to be the last among the members of the project's asset pool to receive its share of whatever was left of the project.

The committee also acknowledged that it would have been extremely difficult at the time to get investors to develop Smokey Mountain, which consisted principally of garbage and undeveloped and unreclaimed land.

The developers employed an innovative and creative financial concept—asset securitization—for the SMRDP.

"Although relatively new in the Philippines, this imaginative scheme has already gained worldwide acceptance and has actually been used by quite a number of financial institutions," the committee report said.

"Asset-backed securities have since become the standard financial instrument for housing projects in the Philippines. In fact, other major real estate development projects throughout the country like the Clark Special Economic Zone and Heritage Park at Fort Bonifacio have also started using similar financial instruments."

Santiago's claim that R-II failed in its obligation to fully finance the SMRDP was false, as shown by the committee report, because she failed to mention the means by which the government and R-II agreed to finance the project.

The committee report said the financial scheme drawn up by the government and R-II for the SMRDP, had ensured that all funds generated would be used exclusively for, and in accordance with, the project because the money was held by a trustee bank and could not be touched by any of the members of the asset pool.

On Santiago's doubts over the ability of R-II Builders to finance the project, the House committee concluded that the equity invested by the company had been "at levels beyond the industry norm."

The House found nothing wrong with the bidding process involving the SMRDP, saying it was awarded to R-II after determining that it was "financially and technically capable of handling the project."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 29, 2004
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29**

My son, conduct your affairs with discretion and you will be loved by those who are acceptable to God.

The greater you are, the more you should humble yourself and thus you will find favor with God. For great is the power of the Lord and it is the humble who give him glory.

For the sufferings of the proud man there is no remedy, the roots of evil are implanted in him. The wise man reflects on proverbs. What the wise man desires is an attentive ear.

2nd Reading: Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses nor heat of a blazing fire, darkness and gloom and storms, blasts of trumpets or such a voice that the people pleaded that no further word be spoken.

But you came near to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem with its innumerable angels. You have come to the solemn feast, the assembly of the firstborn of God, whose names are written in heaven. There is God, Judge of all, with the spirits of the upright brought to perfection. There is Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, with the sprinkled blood that cries out more effectively than Abel's.

Gospel: **Lk 14:1, 7-14**

One Sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched.

Jesus then told a parable to the guests, for he had noticed how they tried to take the places of honor. And he said, "When you are invited to a wedding party, do not choose the best seat. It may happen that someone more important than you has been invited, and your host, who invited both of you, will come and say to you: 'Please give this person your place.' What shame is yours when you take the lowest seat!

"Whenever you are invited, go rather to the lowest seat, so that your host may come and say to you: 'Friend, you must come up higher.' And this will be a great honor for you in the presence of all the other guests. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Jesus also addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary

THOMAS Merton gave us this story by Chuang Tzu (3rd century B.C.).

"Chuang Tzu with his bamboo pole was fishing in Pu river. The Prince of Chu sent two vice-chancellors with a formal document: 'We hereby appoint you Prime Minister.' Chuang Tzu held his bamboo pole. Still watching Pu river, he said, 'I am told there is a sacred tortoise, offered and canonized three thousand years ago, venerated by the prince, wrapped in silk, in a precious shrine on an altar in the Temple. What do you think: is it better to give up one's life and leave a sacred shell as an object of cult in a cloud of incense three thousand years, or better to live as a plain turtle dragging its tail in the mud?' 'For the turtle,' said the Vice-Chancellor, 'better to live and drag its tail in the mud!' 'Go home!' said Chuang Tzu. 'Leave me here to drag my tail in the mud!'"

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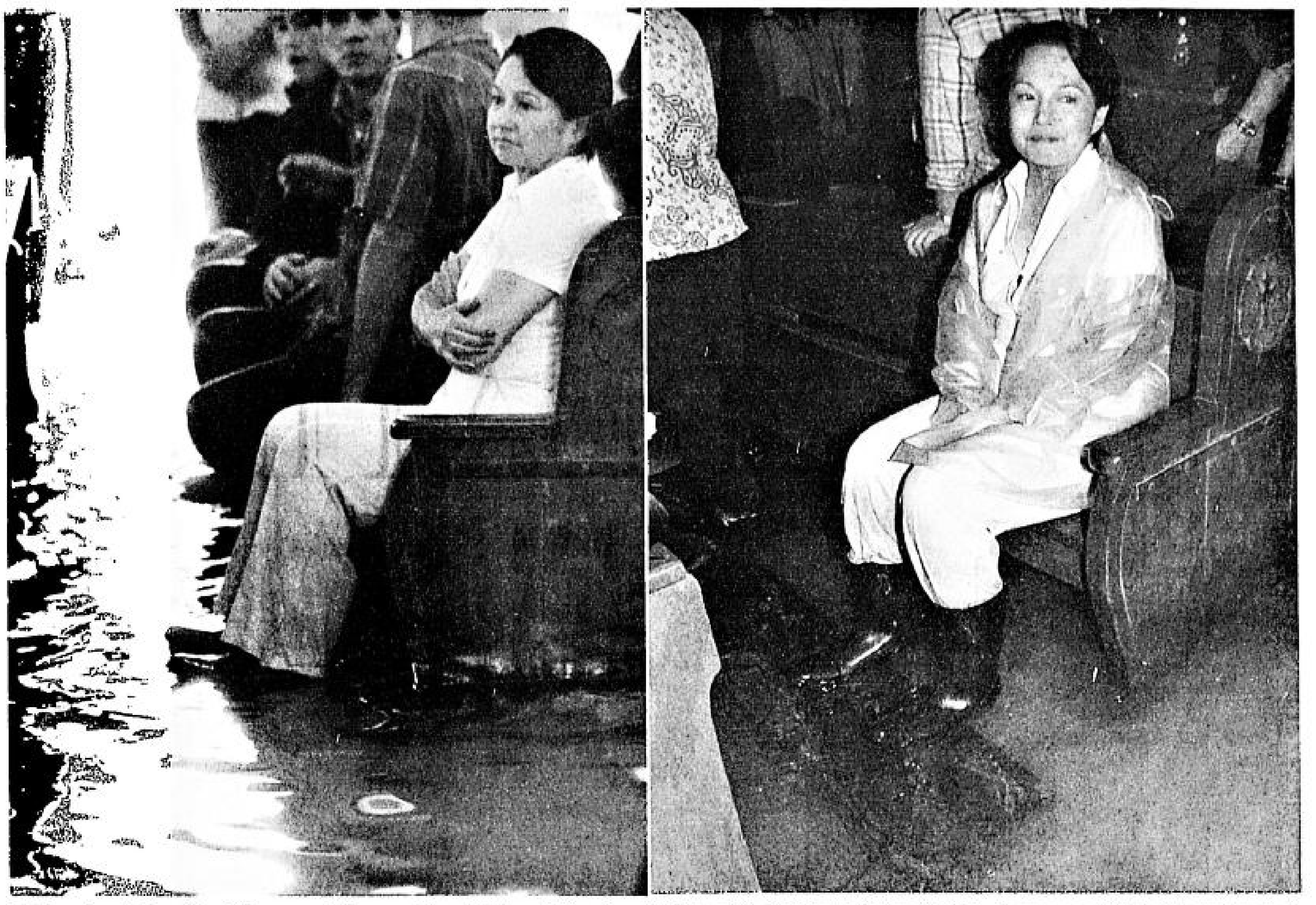

Cold and wet, President Macapagal-Arroyo attends Mass at San Agustin Church in her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga, which was not spared by floodwaters. Later, clad in a raincoat and rubber boots, she's ready to work come hell or high water. VAL HANDUMON

Pampanga folk learn to cope with disaster

From page A1

Yesterday, as creeks, canals, ponds and rivers overflowed from days of rains, thousands of men and boys armed with padwas—some had fishing rods—set out from their homes to fish.

As happens every flooding season, the day turned into a virtual "feast of fish" for them.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gestures as she stresses a point to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap aboard a police Humvee negotiating a flooded street in Lubao, Pampanga, on Saturday. VAL HANDUMON

Agriculture damage

At least 25 people have died in the wake of typhoons Marce and Chaba which triggered widespread flooding across Luzon. Most of the victims drowned in floods.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap placed at P215 million the total damage to agriculture and fisheries in Regions 1 and 3 and in the Cordillera Administrative Region, as of Friday.

Along the same stretch of the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo (GSO) Road, where Capili waited patiently for the fish to bite, Josie Castro tended a fruit stand. She chose this part of the highway because it was dry, unlike the center of town, where the public market was submerged by water.

"If I rely on relief goods, my family would go hungry," she said, arranging her stacks of atis, lanzones and other fruits. "Selling is better."

In nearby Guagua, one of the oldest towns in Pampanga, vendors built makeshift stalls or simply laid out their goods on sacks at the Floridablanca junction of the GSO Road.

Life must go on

The floods did not stop Susan Santos, a vegetable vendor, from doing business.

"Life is hard. I have to work, calamity or none," she told the INQUIRER, her *suki* (regular customer) who followed her all the way from the old Guagua public market, to buy santol for *sinigang* (sour soup).

Meat vendor Conrad Mallari felt the same way.

"This is our way of coping with floods—move to high grounds and still sell. Life has to go on," he said.

As in Guagua and Bacolor, boat owners in Sasmuan plied flooded roads, outdoing the usually reliable tricycles and jeepneys.

A short trip costs P10, said Jonathan Santos, whose wooden banca saw many trips yesterday.

Even the floods could not discourage residents of Lubao from throwing a feast in honor of their patron, St. Augustine.

Carolina Sadsad, 72, said many homes prepared special dishes to celebrate the day.

Ordered to attend Mass

"We're thankful that the calamity was not worse," she said.

Lubao's most prominent guest was no less than its own daughter, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who heard Mass in the town church.

A government employee, who attended the Mass, said he and other civil servants had been ordered by the local mayor to be at the church.

In Pampanga's fourth district, located off the coast of Manila Bay, residents devised boats from styrofoam or from two tire interiors placed under a thick plank of wood.

Roofs were also converted into temporary kitchens or washing areas. Windows became doors in the meantime. Yards turned into instant parking spaces for bicycles.

1.3 million affected

In Candaba town, floods meant hunting time for reptiles. But even in Lubao, hunters did not have to venture far.

Right in his house, Aris Mendoza caught an eight-foot-long snake curled on a windowsill. He immediately looked for a buyer.

But even as Kapampangans seemed to cope with the yearly floods, Gov. Mark Lapid urged them not to be complacent.

"It's good to be prepared for any eventuality," Lapid said.

The floods have affected about 1.3 million people in Luzon, including Metro Manila, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said, appealing for relief supplies, clothes, food and bottled water.

A government report said the rice-growing provinces of Pangasinan and Pampanga were the worst hit, with more than 600,000 people affected.

Some roads in Tarlac and the Cordilleras, including Kennon Road, the Banaue-Bontoc Road, the Mt. Province-Ilocos Sur Road, the Abra-Kalinga Road and the Baguio-Bua-Itogon Road, were closed to traffic due to landslides.

After five days of downpour, the sun finally shone in most parts of Northern and Central Luzon yesterday.

But floodwaters receded slowly and people still had to contend with two to three feet of water in their homes and farmlands.

Cost-saving measures

In Pampanga, Ms Arroyo met with mayors and released P16 million for the purchase of backhoes to desilt rivers and waterways still filled with lahar from Pinatubo's eruption.

"The President said the government could save a lot of money if the backhoes were government-owned," said Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, president of the Pampanga Mayors' League.

Private contractors, he said, may not like the idea but Ms Arroyo's suggestion was practical and cost-saving.

Renting a back hoe costs almost P2 million, about the same amount needed for used equipment that the Department of Public Works and Highways plans to buy, Pineda said.

The province's major rivers—Pasig-Potrero, Porac-Gumain and Abacan—and their tributaries, which all head out to the Pampanga River, remain silted with lahar.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Mt. Pinatubo spewed out 7 cubic kilometers of ash, sand and rocks. Strong rains washed these from the slopes of the Zambales mountain range and deposited them on the waterways.

Only half of that volume had been swept, the Phivolcs said.

At least 232 barangays of 507 villages in Pampanga remained under two to five feet of water. The floods affected 300,337 people, or almost a fourth of the province's population.

Pranksters at work

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani said 59,908 families were affected by floods in his province.

Provincial officials dismissed as the work of pranksters text messages that a dam had burst and that the Agno River had overflowed.

In Dagupan City, the *kuliglig* (farm tractor) and pedicabs, considered road hazards during normal times, ruled the roads not passable by motorized vehicles.

Pedicab and kuliglig drivers from nearby towns trooped to the city to ferry commuters to and from the downtown area, which was still under two feet of water.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the breaching of the dike of Sinocalan River in Sta. Barbara town and in Mangaldan town and the overtopping of the dike in Marusay River in Calasiao town caused the heavy flooding in the city.

The Philippine Air Force said many families were still isolated in Paniqui, Tarlac, following the breaching of the Culibangbang dike there on Friday.

It said rescuers aboard rubber boats saved at least 100 residents trapped by floodwaters in their houses in Paniqui.

In Bulacan, the floods destroyed at least P90 million worth of crops and infrastructure. Officials in San Miguel declared their town under a state of calamity due to floodwaters that affected the town's crops.

San Miguel Mayor Edmundo Buencamino said water from denuded mountains and from the overflowing Bulo Dam isolated 16 barangays. The floodwaters reached five to eight feet in several villages in the town. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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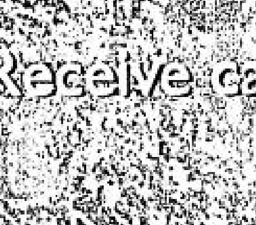

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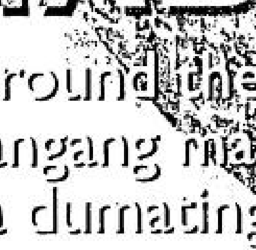

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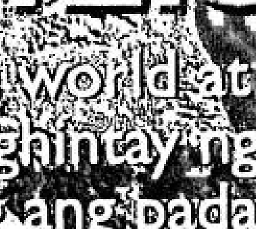
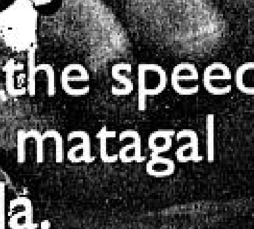


❹ I-activate ang SMART Money Account Number sa celfone mo.



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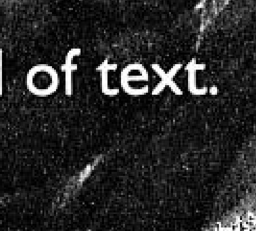

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RM awardee bashes govt's approach to peace

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ONE OF this year's Ramon Magsaysay awardees has criticized the government's approach to attaining peace in Mindanao, calling attention to the hundreds of thousands of families displaced by the war with Muslim rebels.

Benjamin Abadiano, who is being given the Ramon Magsaysay award for emergent leadership for his work in uplifting the plight of indigenous peoples, said peace negotiations were useless unless the government prioritized "human security" over national security.

"Human security... operates from the conviction that the security of people, particularly of those who are directly endangered in battle zones, should be the highest priority of government in its conflict engagements with insurgent, separatist or terrorist organizations," Abadiano said.

"The government should focus more on improving the livelihood of people instead of buying arms," he said.

As executive director of Tabang Mindanaw since 2001, Abadiano has been assisting hundreds of thousands of people who were uprooted by the war between the military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to return home and rebuild their lives.

"The military has no evacuation plan (for civilians in the battle zones); it has only military plans," he said.

At 41, Abadiano is the youngest of this year's seven awardees of the prestigious award that is considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

At his lecture last Friday at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Manila, Abadiano quietly but passionately spoke of the evacuees' fight for their right to a peaceful existence.

He cited his experience at grassroots peace-building.

"Based on experience and reflection, when we talk of peace-building, it has to be seen in the context of the whole person. If you have to negotiate peace, look at the other aspects of the human person. *Kasi pag-nagugutom ang tao tapos sasabihin mo huwag kayo magulo, hindi pwede yon* (Because if a person is hungry, you cannot tell him to remain silent)," Abadiano stressed.

He said the "institutionalized injustice" against indigenous peoples (IPs) must be dismantled before there could be real peace.

He said institutionalized injustice in the form of land-grabbing had taken a different form.

"(It) is no longer a matter of forcibly taking land from the IPs in the interest of irresponsible capitalist business and personal wealth creation. It is now about the IPs having no alternative but to abandon their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire of war," he said.

"So if you talk of peace, it can't be purely peace. It has to be anchored on development, or else *nakalutang ang usapan* (the negotiations would pend)," he added.

Only three years ago, Abadiano had no idea how to go about negotiating with military and MILF commanders on behalf of the people displaced by the war.

In 2001, he was asked by the Assisi Development Foundation to lead its efforts in Mindanao after his nine years' work among the Mangyans in Mindoro Oriental.

"We allowed the war evacuees to talk directly to the military, to tell them what they wanted," Abadiano said.

He said the evacuees at first did not want to talk to the military for fear of being arrested for being MILF supporters.

Abadiano said they also had to negotiate with the Muslim rebels, which they had to keep secret from the military "or else we might be suspected of being supporters."

He said getting the trust of the MILF was another story.

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Cops to wear 'kotong' pins in effort to stop extortion

By Christian V. Esguerra

CONDEMN *kotong* (extortion)—stick it with a pin.

The Philippine National Police has begun distributing anti-*kotong* pins among its 115,000 men in an effort to flush out extortionists in the ranks.

The round pins bear the word *kotong* with a bold red slash over it. They will be worn initially by 13,000 officers of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Hopefully, the pins will help curb the problem.

"They will serve as reminders of an existing campaign. Besides, it will be hard to engage in extortion when you're wearing an anti-*kotong* pin on your uniform," NCRPO Director Avelino Razon told the INQUIRER.

The pins will also discourage the public from tempting policemen into committing the illegal activity, said Razon, pointing out that street *kotong* cannot flourish without the cooperation of unscrupulous motorists.

Soon all PNP officers, from PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay to the street patrolman, will be wearing the pins—a strong show of unity against the bogey that has been tarnishing the image of the national police force.

"We want policemen to regain the people's respect," Razon told reporters during a tour of NCRPO units Friday.

The PNP will also deploy "honesty" teams specifically tasked to spy on their *kotong* and *hulidap* (another form of extortion) comrades.

The idea came from Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, who started the program as soon as Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered a crackdown last month.

In the expanded strategy, honesty teams will each be composed of four "upright" officers who will scour the streets for "rogue" policemen. Armed with guns and radio equipment, they will ride in tandem on two motorcycles.

"We will deploy as many honesty teams as possible," Razon said.

In the period July 19 to Aug. 25, the PNP arrested 54 officers for alleged involvement in extortion activities. Three officers were charged criminally, 26 administratively, and the rest are still under investigation.

The PNP has also forged ties with the Catholic Church and other religious denominations in another important battle, this time against illegal drugs.

Speaking before the First Consultative Meeting on Community Safety and Security held at the Coco Palace Hotel in San Pablo City last week, Aglipay announced he had already spoken with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and 17 members of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) regarding the PNP's proposal to include anti-drug education in church-run schools.

Leaders of the Iglesia ni Kristo and the Seventh Day Adventist Church likewise expressed their support for the PNP's request.

"It is imperative that all of us work together to solve this problem," the PNP chief said.

Aglipay noted that because the Catholic Church had direct influence over 80 percent of the country's population, the cooperation of its officials was very important. *With Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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US animal rights group decries Davao horsefights

By Jerome Aning

AN INFLUENTIAL animal rights group in the United States has launched a letter drive to stop horsefighting in the Philippines, in particular, Davao City's annual Kadayawan Festival.

People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), which is based in Norfolk, Virginia, has urged members and supporters to write or e-mail the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to end horsefighting.

The letter drive was posted on the group's website (www.peta.org) yesterday. It described horsefighting as a "barbaric bloodsport."

"Horsefighting is rooted in gambling and gore. Organizers make two stallions compete to mate with a mare who is in heat. The male horses become aggressive and kick, bite and gouge each other in a ring from which there is no escape," Peta said in its advisory.

It added that horses were often ill-matched, and many of them were slaughtered after sustaining "terrible injuries."

"To help stop horsefighting at the Kadayawan festival, please contact Mayor Duterte and politely tell him that you won't be visiting what he calls the 'Most Peaceful City in the Philippines' until it's peaceful for horses, too," Peta said.

The organization noted that horsefighting was illegal in the Philippines under Republic Act 8485, also known as the Philippine Animal Welfare Act. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) earlier reported horsefights were featured during the Kadayawan festival on Aug. 20.

Peta has more than 800,000 members and claims to be the largest animal rights organization in the world. Founded in 1980, it is dedicated to establishing and protecting the rights of all animals.

In its website, Peta says it "operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment."

The group focuses its attention on four areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time: on factory farms, in laboratories, in the fur trade, and in the entertainment industry. It works on a variety of other issues, including the cruel killing of beavers, birds and other "pests," and the abuse of backyard dogs.

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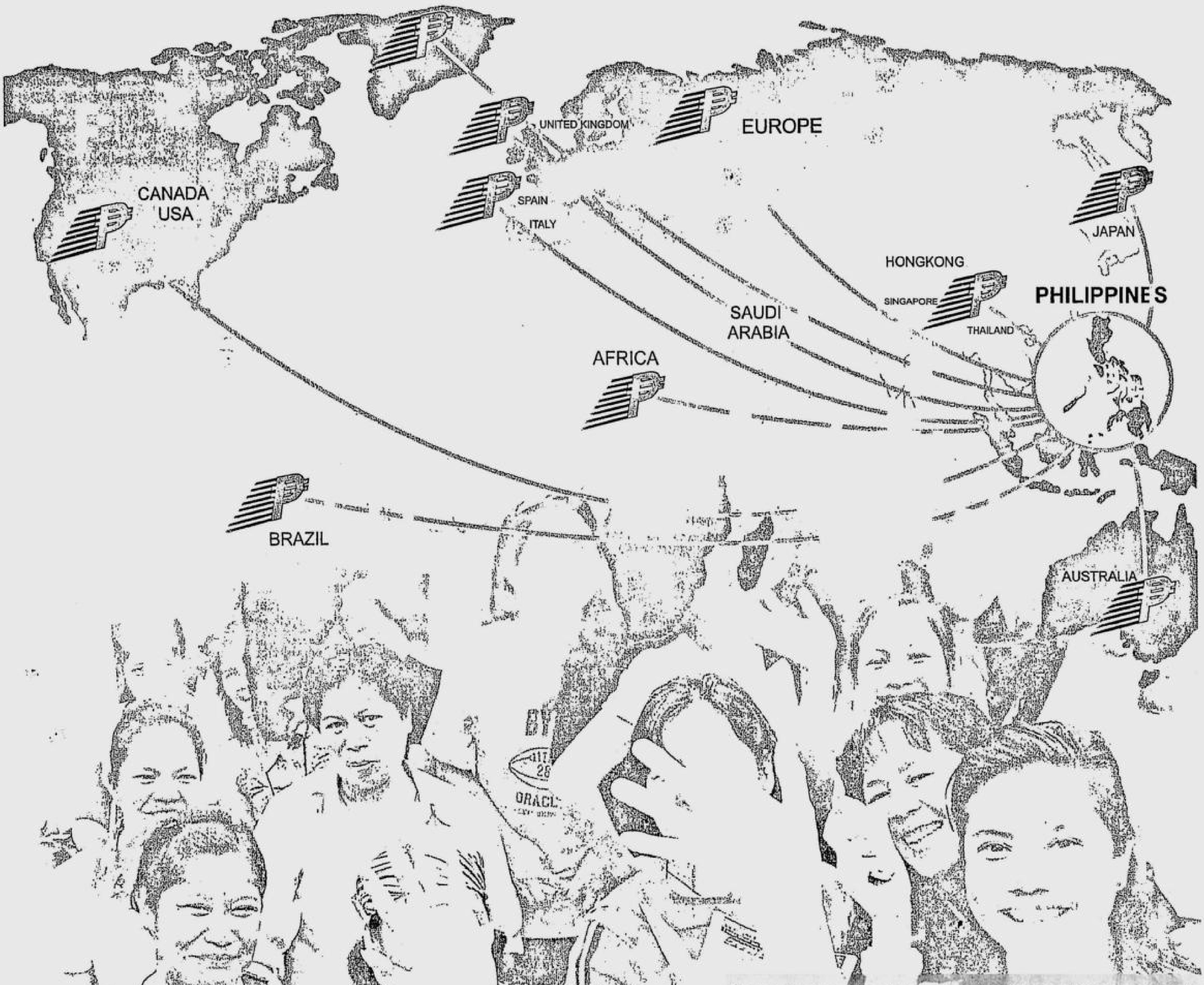

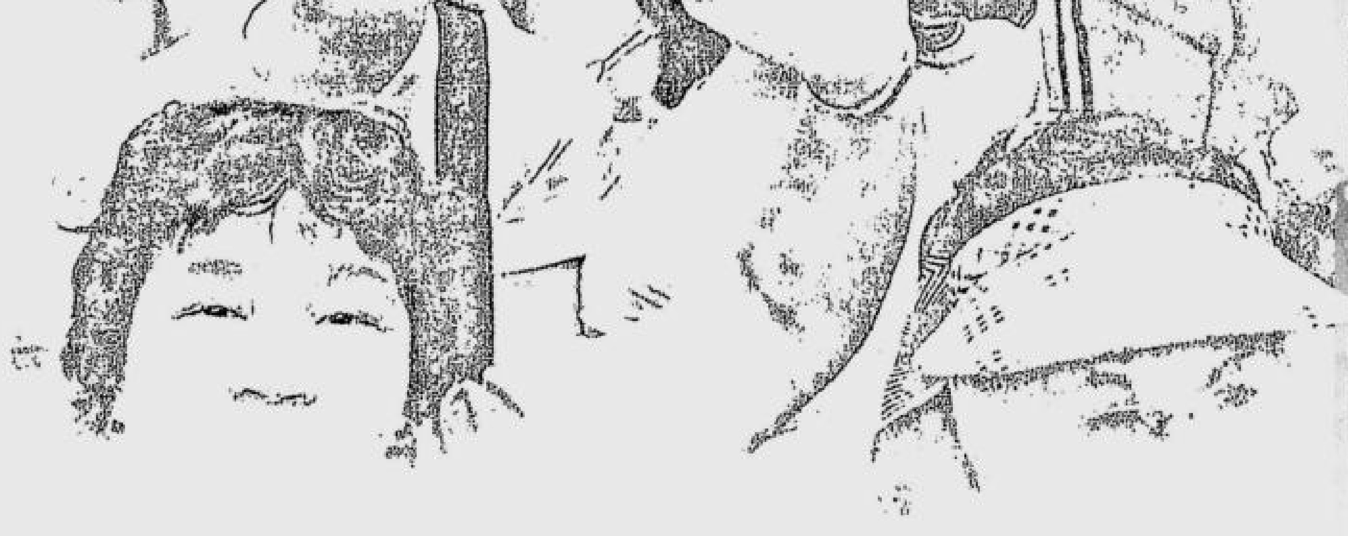

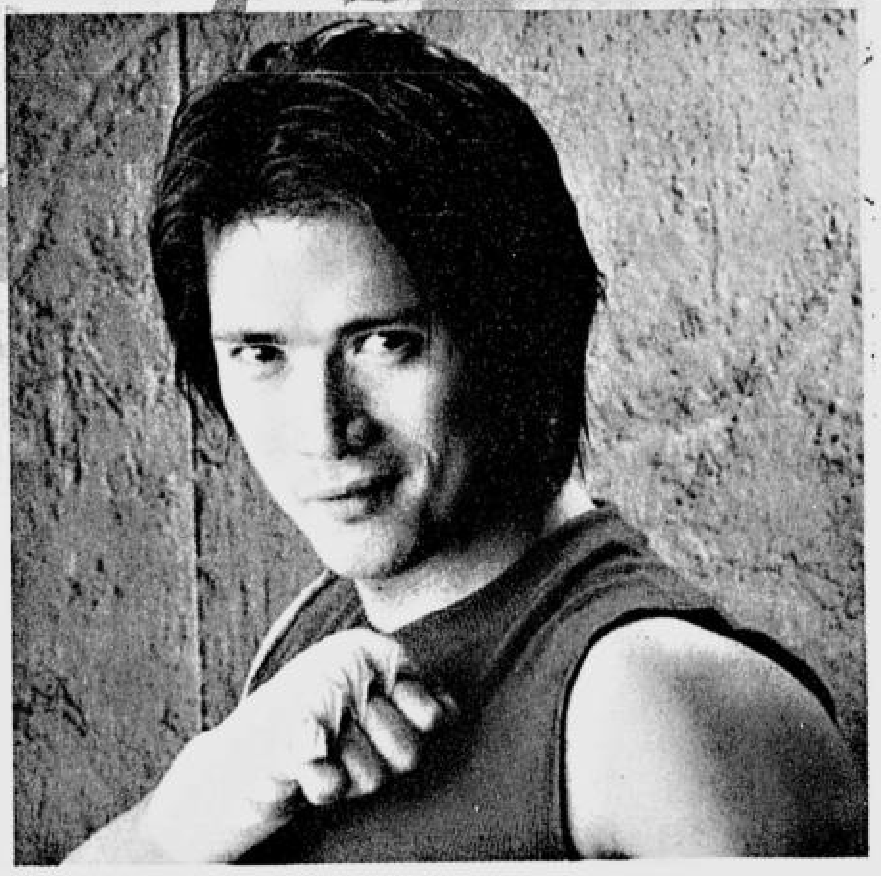

"Naniniwala ako na lahat tayo ay makabayan"

Robin Padilla
champions the OFW

OFWs have recently been brought into the spotlight by current events. These modern day heroes found a champion in Robin Padilla as he spoke witlf powerful charisma. "Ang SMART Padala ay isang halimbawa sa mga malalaking kompanya na bigyang pansin ang mga kapatid nating Pilipino na nagsisikap (SMART Padala is an example of a large company responding to our Filipino brothers and sisters who are working hard)." The latest SMART endorser is now seen in the SMART Padala commercial battering away at old traditional hindrances to OFWs including slow, expensive, inefficient and unreliable remittance services. SMART Padala, being the world's first remittance service on SMS, is inherently faster, secure, as well as cheaper.

Boy Martirez, Head of PCMSD at SMART adds concrete benefits to OFWs and their families. "It is mabilis (fast), compared to the 1-3 days waiting period of door-to-door services. Matipid (Cheaper), since it's approximately 20% or more cheaper than door-to-door, and maaasahan (Reliable)," he said. "SMART Padala has partnered with reputable and conveniently located remittance companies worldwide and encashment centers locally totaling to 9,440. It draws strength from this collaboration between SMART's innovative technologies and the experience and know-how of these companies. SMART Padala gives a viable alternative, it is a lifeline of financial support, a demonstration of concern, a channel of communication between sender and recipient."

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Dan Ibarra, SMART's Head of E-Services charts out the future for SMART Padala, "Very soon more encashment centers will be made available. By year's end we are looking at 20,000 encashment centers, making it even more convenient for beneficiaries to claim their funds." More importantly, it will serve the local market as well. "The process will be the same except that sending takes place at the wireless centers and local SMART Padala partners. It will be perfect for parents in the provinces sending money to their children studying in the city, or workers sending money back to the provinces."

"Naniniwala ako na lahat tayo ay makabayan (I believe we are all patriotic)," Robin Padilla intones, "Ang dolyar na pinapadala ng OFWs ay tumutulong para sa pagpapaikot at nagpapatakbo ng ating ekonomiya (The dollars sent by OFWs helps sustain and run our economy)." SMART Padala gives OFWs and their families the best way to keep that lifeline alive.SMART Padala remittance partners abroad include the best in the world, an innovative service allied with a nationwide network of encashment centers in the Philippines. OFWs and their families can now have peace of mind with their remittances, SMART Padala has responded to the call.

Public works execs want geologist, PDI cited for contempt

By Armand N. Nocum and Tonette Orejas,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PUBLIC works officials charged with graft for the allegedly faulty FVR Megadike in Pampanga have asked the Sandiganbayan to cite geologist Kelvin Rodolfo and the Philippine Daily Inquirer for "indirect contempt of court" for publishing a story on the hearings into the graft case.

In a motion filed on Aug. 26, the officials' lawyers said Rodolfo and an INQUIRER reporter were liable for allegedly causing publication of the article "in an attempt to influence" the antigraft court in its decision.

The INQUIRER in its Aug. 26 issue reported on Rodolfo's testimony at the Aug. 24 hearing on the case at the Sandiganbayan.

Rodolfo, a "hazard mitigator" and lahar expert who was presented as a prosecution witness, testified that the failure of the respondents to study the behavior of lahar—the mudflow of wet, volcanic deposits—and conduct a test boring of lahar deposits led to the breaching of the dike in 1996.

Rodolfo, a visiting professor of geology at the University of the Philippines, said it was not the onslaught of lahar that destroyed a portion of the P3-billion megadike but "standing water" accumulated behind the dike following heavy rains in 1996.

The FVR Megadike functions as a catchment for the highly porous lahar deposits that flowed into the rivers of Pampanga following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991.

In an interview after the hearing, Rodolfo warned that a lahar slide was a tragedy waiting to happen.

Those charged for the breaching of the dike were Department of Public Works design officials Bienvenido C. Leuterio, Gregorio Carillo, Sofia Santiago, Pedro Tercino, Ramon Velasquez, Gilbert Reyes, Darious de Guzman and Raymund Adawag. The case is being heard by the Sandiganbayan's 1st Division.

The 5th Division is hearing a separate case against Acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, private contractor Ariel Lim of Atlantic Erectors, and several others for the allegedly defective construction of the dike.

In an earlier interview, Soriquez, who supervised the construction of the dike as head of the Mt. Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office, said he had no liability for the breaching of the dike as his role in the project was "ministerial."

The lawyers claimed in their motion that the case was "still sub judice" since the defense had yet to present its side and the court had yet to hand down a decision.

The law on sub judice prohibits the public discussion of the merits of the case in a manner that will influence the decision of the court.

"Because of the wide publicity given to such self-serving statements, the accused in the instant case are already adjudged guilty by the reading public," the motion said.

During the hearing, the INQUIRER sought to interview the defense lawyers as well as the defendants but they refused to speak on record and asked the INQUIRER not to write about the hearing.

The hearing of the contempt motion has been set for Aug. 31.

Yesterday, Rodolfo was in Pampanga's capital city of San Fernando urging residents to be on the alert for the megadike.

Rodolfo, who always visits the province during the rainy season to monitor the state of the megadike, observed that the lahar hitting the base of the San Antonio and Maliwalu sections of the 56-km, U-shaped dike was already diluted.

"This is not good and so the residents should always be (on the) alert," he said.

"Ang-CASH TIPID"

TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY
President Arroyo holds up one of the stickers designed to promote energy conservation in the face of the energy and fiscal crises bedeviling the country, at yesterday's Pulong Bayan held at the Pandacan oil depot in Manila. With the President are Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and comedienne Giselle Sanchez who emceed the affair. See stories on Pages A1 and A23.
PCPO MALACAÑANG

Silliman marks 103rd, cites grads

THE 103rd Silliman University Founders Day celebration, spread over Aug. 3-30, was highlighted by the conferring of Outstanding Sillimanian Awards to graduates who had made dents in their respective fields.

This year's awardees were Cresencio C. Bendijo, for marketing management; Bishop Hilario M. Gomez Jr., for peace advocacy and religious life; Rufino "Junix" Inocian, theater and arts; Leticia Catacutan Jue, advocacy and outreach in nursing; Prof. Priscilla Lasmarias-Kelso, education; Dr. Edmundo A. Pantejo, counseling ministry, and Dr. Rowena Tiempo-Torrevillas, literature and creative writing.

They were honored with a ceremonial review by the SU-ROTC Unit, a convocation and a luncheon on Aug. 28.

Silliman was founded in Dumaguete City on Aug. 28, 1901. Its creation was made possible by a grant from Horace B. Silliman of New York City. The university's current president is Dr. Agustin Pulido while the chair of the board of trustees is former National Treasurer Leonor M. Briones.

Balik-Talent lectures were delivered by outstanding alumni working and living abroad. Rev. Dr. Federico I. Agnir spoke on "The Same-Sex Marriage Controversy: A First-hand Report from a Massachusetts Clergyman." Dr. Priscilla Lasmarias-Kelso talked on "Spirituality and Teaching: Education as Transformation," while Reynaldo Ramos addressed "How to Develop an Ergonomically Sound Workplace."

The thanksgiving worship service at the SU East Triangle had Dr. Sheila Buot, former SU board of trustees member, as speaker. Rev. Edmund Pantejo, this year's outstanding alumnus, was the 9 a.m. worship speaker at the Silliman University Church where he also served as pastor for so many years.

Sports activities included competitions in swimming, lawn tennis, archery, volleyball, soccer and basketball.

George N. Valencia mounted a one-man exhibit of Silliman landscapes on canvas. Prof. Susan Vista-Suarez launched her books, Choral Conducting Exercise Techniques and Born to Make a Difference. A choral clinic with the Manila Concert Choir in coordination with the College of Performing Arts, the Divinity School and the Negros District Conference will be held on Aug. 30.

Solons back Baja at UN

MORE than 60 congressmen led by Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu and Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro City, chair and vice chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, respectively, have backed the retention of Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr. as Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the solons said national interest dictated that the credibility and respect achieved by the Philippines in the UN and the Security Council, in particular, should not be disrupted by a change in its representative who had fulfilled all expectations required of him, and more.

Such a change would be viewed by the international community as a lack of sincerity and purpose on the part of the Philippines in its membership in the UN, they said.

Former acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert, who was replaced by Alberto Romulo in the recent shakeup in the Cabinet, had reportedly expressed a wish to be appointed to the post currently being held by Baja.

Baja represents the country in the Security Council as well. He presided over the council in June when it was the Philippines' turn to head the SC.

His presidency was commended by both UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and General Assembly president Julian Hunte. It was during his watch that the Security Council adopted Resolution 1546 on the granting of sovereignty to Iraq.

At a press briefing in Congress, Cuenco said that because of the "importance of continuity and seriousness of Philippine diplomacy, which should be above political exigencies, we respectfully request the President [to give] Ambassador Baja the opportunity to complete his tour of duty which demands considerable and special expertise and experience in multilateral negotiations and consensus building strategies."

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The Winner's Toolbox

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Convergence: When Woodstock Meets the Ragnarok Generation
Engaging the Hearts and Minds of Our Young Filipino Workers

Tuberculosis bugs military personnel

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines has a new enemy—tuberculosis.

The disease, the sixth leading killer in the country, infected 833 members of the AFP last year alone. At least 256 more were infected during the first half of this year.

Speaking at the 11th annual convention of the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis, AFP medical specialist Lt. Col. Angelita Larin said the military found it hard to treat infected personnel, especially members of the Army, because they were very mobile.

Philippine Army soldiers topped the list of tuberculosis patients from the military, accounting for 469 of the 833 tuberculosis cases in the AFP last year and 104 of the 256 cases this year.

Larin, chief of the AFP preventive medicine unit, said tuberculosis remained among the top 10 causes of morbidity or sickness in the Army.

"I am really scared, a bit worried, when the positivity rate among the military is so big—two percent per 1,000 men—and they're supposed to be fit," said Health Undersecretary Antonio Lopez, reacting to Larin's presentation.

"We have to take note of the military's lifestyle. Many of them are smokers and drinkers," Lopez said.

Last year, 58 personnel from the Navy, 19 from the Air Force and 287 from AFP Wide Services Support Units were found to have tuberculosis. This year, 27 from the Navy, 20 from Air Force and 105 from AFPWSSU have tuberculosis.

The AFP has around 115,000 members, 76,000 of them in the Army, which might explain the greater percentage of cases in that branch.

Larin said the AFP had only been "passively" monitoring the tuberculosis cases in the military although it has shifted from chest X-ray exams to sputum smears to determine if soldiers had tuberculosis.

Maid with deformity sues HK employer

HONG KONG—A Filipino maid is suing her former Hong Kong employer for firing her because she had three deformed fingers, her lawyer said Saturday.

Celestina Valdez Aquino, 44, told the court Friday her former boss Betty So began mistreating her after she discovered the deformity in Aquino's right hand three days into the job, said her lawyer David McKenzie-Ross.

Aquino, of Pangasinan, told the court her employer's family used foul language to harass her, and attempted to force her to quit but she refused.

Aquino was fired three months later, he said.

Aquino also claimed So fined her whenever she made mistakes, including HK$50 (P360) for not shutting the refrigerator door properly.

McKenzie-Ross said Aquino secretly taped So verbally abusing her, and he read out an alleged transcript in court.

Aquino is claiming about HK$170,000 (P1.2 million) in damages, McKenzie-Ross said. *AP*

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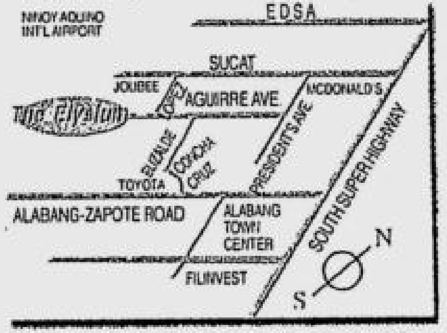

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No more dole-outs from Malacañang

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal Arroyo's offer to cut her nearly P1 billion-a-year Social Fund in proportion to the reduction in the congressional pork barrel would mean that there would be no money for dole-outs and sponsorships from Malacañang, the President's budget secretary said yesterday.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that people should then stop turning to Malacañang for donations because the President would have less money to give out if her Social Fund was slashed.

Ms Arroyo has said that in her first three years in office she had been slashing her Social Fund which she said amounted to P1 billion.

Added to her intelligence fund of P1.2 billion a year, the President actually has at her disposal more than P2 billion in discretionary funds.

This is roughly equivalent to a tenth of the P20 billion congressional Priority Development Assistance Fund that the government regularly allocates to fund projects of legislators to ingratiate themselves with their constituents.

The Social Fund's main source of money is the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., the state-run gaming monopoly that allocates 5 percent of its annual income to the fund. Pagcor gave P1.15 billion in 2001, P1.1 billion in 2002, and P475 million in 2003, or an average of P908 million a year, to the President's fund.

In the 2005 national budget that she submitted to Congress this week, the President formally asked legislators for a 40 percent reduction in their PDAF—to P40 million from P70 million for each House member and to P120 million from P200 million for each senator—to help her deal with the fiscal crisis.

The cuts in the congressional pork barrel would yield P9.7 billion for the national government.

While several legislators have offered to reduce and even give up their pork barrel entirely, some have loudly called for the President to also forgo her social and intelligence funds.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said that if the President wanted the public to make sacrifices, then she should share in the burden and give up her "gargantuan" pork barrel.

"It cannot be a one-way street. Otherwise she will fail in her appeal," he said.

In a statement yesterday, the President said: "We appreciate the offers of sacrifice from both houses of Congress and we assure our people that the executive branch is prepared to do its share in concrete and meaningful ways."

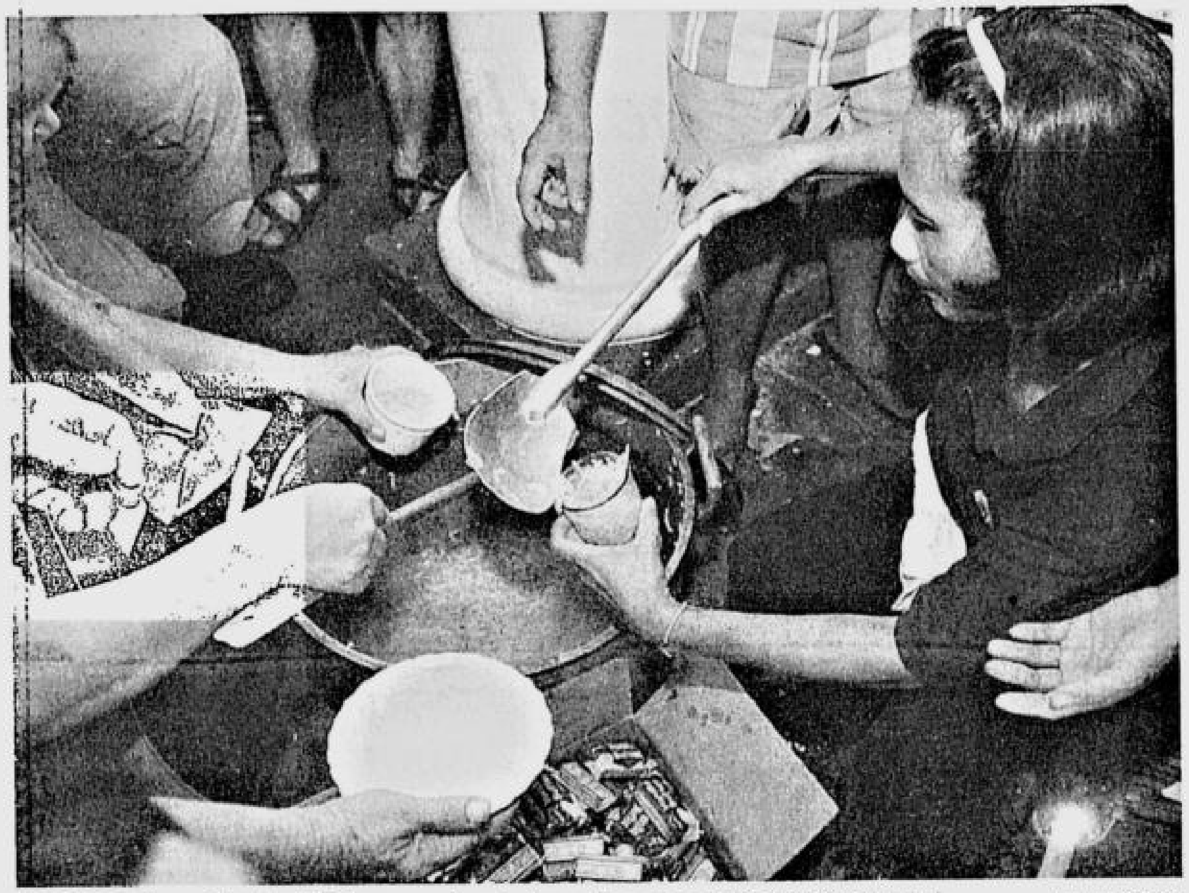
But in his weekly commentary, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the savings from the President's Social Fund "would not be enough to alleviate our fiscal situation."

Bunye stressed that the Social Fund was an off-budget item and would not affect the national government's fiscal position "one way or the other."

As for the reduction or abolition of the President's intelligence fund as proposed by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Boncodin said it would be up to Congress to decide whether to cut or strike it out of the 2005 budget.

But Boncodin noted that it was during Lacson's stint as chief of the Philippine National Police during the short-lived administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada that the intelligence fund was increased substantially.

Boncodin said that from only P100 million during the Ramos administration, the presidential intelligence fund jumped to P500 million under Estrada when Lacson was running the national police organization.



FLOOD victims of Paniqui, Tarlac, are given hot noodle soup and biscuits for the soul. VAL HANDUMON

Gov't to cut perks, trips, overtime pay

From page A1

ernment officials; paid media advertisements; training, seminars and workshops; celebrations and sports activities not related to the functions of agencies; donations, grants and gifts; and the hiring of consultants.

'Difference for the better'

In her inaugural speech at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila on June 30, the President said: "I pledge to you a government that will live within its means and put every spare peso to real work. I pledge to reduce spending where the government does not work and increase it where the government can make a difference for the better."

The payroll of the 1.2 million people employed by the government (including the 200,000 in government-owned and controlled corporations) accounts for 32 percent of the proposed budget for 2005 (or P289.57 billion, the second highest cost item). Maintenance expenses account for 10 percent (or P8.77 billion).

Ms Arroyo was prompted to come out with more concrete measures of her government's austerity program after she was criticized for supposedly giving too little while demanding too much from the public (in terms of proposed new taxes) and from lawmakers and local government officials (in terms of cutbacks in pork barrel funds and the Internal Revenue Allotment). *(See related story on Page A2.)*

In a statement he issued on Friday, Bunye reiterated that the executive department would lead the way of sacrifice during these tough times.

'Equal sharing'

"The President's call for the lawmakers to exercise austerity measures will be equally shared by the departments and agencies under the executive branch, the Office of the President included," Bunye said, adding:

"Whatever funds are in reserve will be earmarked for the most vital and urgent pro-poor projects. The nation must be like one house and one home, where everybody carries the burden when crisis strikes." *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

New DENR chief says construction firm may be made to 'pay' for bulldozing trees

By Volt C. Contreras

INCOMING Environment Secretary Michael Defensor yesterday started making himself visible in his new turf by calling for a probe into the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation's complaint over the destruction of its nursery by a construction crew last week.

Defensor, who will formally take over the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday, said that if proven remiss, the construction company "may be required to replace the saplings or plant new trees as part of its responsibility to the country."

The former housing adviser has been seen frequenting the DENR office in Quezon City the past week for "briefing" sessions with his predecessor, Elisea Gozun.

He showed up unannounced at the DENR press center yesterday following an "initial inspection" of the MSBF compound at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue.

The MSBF has filed a complaint of malicious mischief with the police against a bulldozing crew of San Jose Builders for destroying the saplings during a land clearing operation on Aug. 23. The crew allegedly went to work "without prior notice" to the foundation.

The ruined plants—9,936 saplings, to be exact—cost around P1.25 million, said MSBF president Chito Bertol.

In an interview Friday, Bertol admitted that the plants were growing outside the MSBF's officially awarded property. He insisted, however, that the 27-year-old foundation had been "allowed" to use the surrounding lots which are owned by the National Housing Authority.

He argued that even if the nursery had exceeded its boundaries, MSBF still deserved to be notified by San Jose Builders about the bulldozing operations. The plants could have been saved, he said.

The NHA, however, denied Bertol's claim that there was no prior notice sent. It also stressed that the foundation was already "encroaching" on the land which the NHA had recently leased to San Jose Builders to be developed into a commercial center and bus terminal.

Opposition wary of GMA 'super pork'

From page A1

After declaring last week that the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis, the President asked senators and congresspeople to agree to a 40 percent cut in their 2005 Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), known as the pork barrel.

There were varying responses from legislators, with some agreeing to a partial cut, others to an outright surrender and still others to a slash on condition that Ms Arroyo give up part of her own pork barrel. *(See related story.)*

While claiming that he himself was not against giving up a part of his P200-million-a-year pork barrel share, Pimentel proceeded to name all the reasons why he might be loath to give up this particular perk.

He said the issue was the President's credibility.

"The President has lost the moral ascendancy to assert that power after squandering billions of pesos of taxpayers' money on her election campaign which has almost rendered the national treasury empty," he said.

Pimentel demanded that Ms Arroyo account for the funds that were allegedly diverted to free health insurance, emergency employment, student loan program and Patubig sa Barangay to supposedly promote her candidacy last May, "for which she is now facing a string of plunder charges before the Office of the Ombudsman."

By giving up the pork, the members of Congress would be giving up the privilege of identifying and recommending for funding development projects in communities "whose needs are neglected by the executive branch," Pimentel also argued.

He said the abuses committed in the handling of the pork barrel funds would not be corrected by ceding total control in the disbursement of the funds to the President.

Pimentel also objected to Malacañang's wanting to reduce the internal revenue allotments (IRA) of local government units by about P20 billion. He said this was an arbitrary and retrogressive move that would negate the supposed gains in local autonomy that have enabled local governments to be partially liberated from "over-dependence on the goodwill of the occupant in Malacañang."

"I only wish to make sure that the resources of government are not placed solely at the discretion of the President because, otherwise, we will have a very powerful President who can control the very lives of the people which is the very antithesis to a democratic government," he said.

Although some opposition senators have already decided to forgo their entire 2005 pork barrel, the minority bloc in the Senate has yet to reach a consensus on the issue, according to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

Estrada earlier said that he was agreeable to the proposal to reduce or even abolish the pork barrel so long as "all lawmakers will agree so that everybody will carry the burden of the government's austerity program."

Besides Estrada, opposition Senators Panfilo Lacson and Sergio Osmeña III said they would give up their pork.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he was willing to give up his share "if everybody does so." He said Ms Arroyo should also give up her pork barrel to set an example.

Angara said that if Senate President Franklin Drilon could get all senators to follow suit, "then I think there will be no problem among the opposition."

Nine administration senators signed a resolution early this week expressing their willingness to slash their 2005 PDAF. Drilon and Senators Francis Pangilinan, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Lito Lapid later announced they would give up 100 percent of their pork.

At the House, Negros Occidental legislators yesterday announced they would accept the cuts but only if everyone else in Congress does the same.

"The sacrifice should start from the President down to the local governments," said Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella.

Puentevella also has an additional condition—that the halved pork be given outright. He said that under current practice, allocations for projects that go to different government agencies are not released outright.

"It can take a year or longer for approved projects to reach beneficiaries," he said.

Rep. Tranquilino Carmona said he was willing to accept the cuts on condition that the amounts to be slashed would be discussed with the House member as this will affect the projects in their districts.

Rep. Alfredo Marañon III said he was willing to do his part but stressed that the legislators really needed their pork.

"That is all right for congressmen in rich districts but not for those who have poor rural constituents that have leaking school buildings, roads that need to be fixed and farmers that need help," Marañon said.

Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson said the House majority has scheduled a caucus on Monday to discuss the cuts.

Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr., the President's brother-in-law, said he would also agree to the cut if everyone else did. "We should all chip in and help so long as everyone does their fair share," he said.

Two congressmen meanwhile asked administration Sen. Joker Arroyo to stop blaming the President for the fiscal crisis and instead help her avert an economic meltdown by giving her the benefit of his advice on how to save and raise money to ease the deficit.

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario and Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy said there was no truth to Arroyo's charge that Malacañang had concealed the government's alleged borrowing binge in the past three years.

Almario said Ms Arroyo has always been "transparent and honest" about the country's financial health, including government borrowings, since she assumed office in 2001.

He explained that the government had to resort to domestic and foreign borrowings to cover shortfalls in revenue collection where much of the funds for government projects and programs come from.

Uy said the government's borrowings have always passed congressional scrutiny during the annual budget hearings.

He said that Congress has oversight functions to check on government expenditures, including payments for foreign and local loans.

"This is not the time for finger-pointing and blaming. What the nation needs now are quick action, support from everyone and faith in the leadership of the President. Our selfless sacrifice is the key to averting the fiscal crisis from happening in two to three years," Uy said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 PDI reporters bag business journalism awards

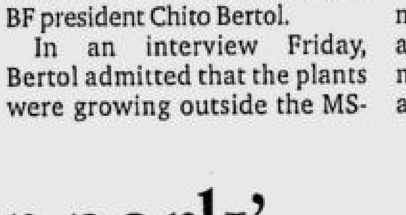
From page A1

pine Stock Exchange and Banking/Finance, respectively.

The Ejap-Globe Telecom annual awards aim to encourage the development of business journalism in the country by giving recognition to business reporters who have produced accurate, timely and relevant economic stories.

The INQUIRER won two of the six awards for "Reporter of the Year" in various business beats. Other winners were Elaine Ruzul Ramos of Manila Standard (Trade and Industry); Lenie Lectura of Today (Energy); Manolette Tabingco of Businessworld (Telecommunications), and Rocel Felix of Philippine Star (Agribusiness).

The "Feature Story of the Year" was awarded to Businessworld's "Controversies Hounding the BOT Law" authored by Cathy Rose Garcia, Leotes Lugo and Cecille Yap.



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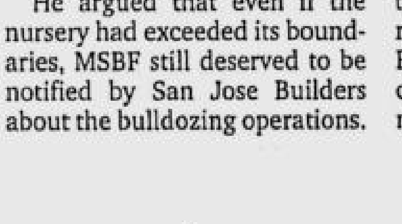

DUMLAO

Former Finance Undersecretary Milwida Guevara of Synergeia Foundation chaired this year's board of judges, which included former Economic Planning Secretary and University of the Philippines economist Cayetano Paderanga, Asian Institute of Management Dean Eduardo Morato Jr., University of Asia and the Pacific senior economist Victor Abola and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas director Fe de la Cruz.

Jessie Cabaluna of SGV & Co. was responsible for evaluating the scores given by the judges.

Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Ejap president Lawrence Agcaoili and Globe Telecom senior vice president Rodolfo Salalima awarded the prizes to the winners.

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Russia: Terror behind jet crash; group owns attack

MOSCOW—Russia said Friday "terrorists" were behind a passenger jet crash, as an Islamic group vowing support for Chechnya rebels claimed responsibility for that attack and the downing of another airliner at almost the same moment.

"According to our initial investigation, at least one of the air crashes... came as a result of a terror attack," a spokesman for Russia's FSB intelligence service was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

The spokesperson, Sergei Ignachenko, announced that investigators had discovered traces of Hexogen, a powerful explosive with both military and civilian uses, in the wreckage of one of two planes that crashed almost simultaneously Tuesday.

Hexogen was identified by Russian authorities in 1999 as the explosive used in a series of apartment building blasts that killed around 200 people, an attack cited by Russian President Vladimir Putin as justification for invading Chechnya.

Ignachenko said no similar evidence of terrorism had yet been found in the wreckage of the other plane.

There was also no official assertion of a link between the attackers and rebels in the separatist Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya, who have vowed to take their five-year guerrilla war against Russian troops into the country's main cities.

Officials acknowledged however that they were investigating possible connections with Chechnya, where elections crucial to the Kremlin were due Sunday.

One official said that the remains of a female passenger thought to be a resident of Chechnya who had been on one of two Russian planes were being closely examined for traces of explosive.

A spokesperson for the ministry of emergency situations said the passenger's remains were more badly damaged and more widely scattered on the ground than any others.

Investigators also said they were looking for information on another female passenger aboard the other plane, identified by Russian news agencies only by her family name, Djebirkhanova, also thought to be of Chechen origin.

Interest in the two women was heightened by the fact that no family or friends had yet come forward to identify their bodies, the reports said. *AFP*

A WOMAN weeps as she stands at the door of a local morgue after an identification procedure of her relative, a victim of the TU-134 aircraft crash, Aug. 26. AFP

Iraq's leading Shiite clerics meet in Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq—Iraq's top Shiite Muslim clerics, back in control of Najaf's Imam Ali shrine after a four-month militia occupation, met amid the ruins of the city on Saturday as life spluttered back to normality.

But in the main northern city of Mosul, a senior woman academic was shot dead by unknown gunmen as she drove to her university department, police said.

Iman Abdul Moneam Younis, head of translation at Mosul University's College of Art, died instantly when gunmen drew up alongside her in a car and opened fire, before speeding off, said Major Falah Hassan.

The 36-year-old had complained of receiving death threats, Hassan added.

In Najaf the main boulevards were again clogged with traffic as shops reopened and residents whose homes were pummeled to dust seethed with fury at radical cleric Moqtada Sadr for his three-week battle against US-led troops.

Iraq's revered Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who forced Sadr to end the conflict and quit the Imam Ali shrine, met at his home with Grand Ayatollahs Mohammed Saad al-Hakim and Ishaq al-Fayad for 30 minutes.

"They congratulated Ali Sistani for his recovery from medical treatment abroad and he thanked God for preserving them from the danger in the holy city during these such difficult days," said Sistani representative Hamid Khaffaf.

The elderly Iranian-born ayatollah was granted a 24-hour ceasefire by Baghdad and the US military on Thursday to negotiate an end to the standoff.

A spokesperson had said the clerics would discuss war-torn Najaf, one day after Sadr's supporters quit the shrine, one of the most important in Shiite Islam, and returned its keys to the religious authorities known as the Marjaiya.

Sistani's office has already called for an immediate inquiry into the shooting of supporters trying to get into the holy city on the same day in which dozens were killed en route from the twin city of Kufa.

With the once glorious pilgrimage city reduced to ruins, the task of reconstruction is enormous for the interim government, from whom Sistani has also demanded compensation for those who suffered in the assault.

Peace continued for a second day, but the Mehdi Army has refused to surrender its weapons to Iraqi authorities, defying one of three conditions laid down by the caretaker government for halting its US-backed assault on the militia. *AFP*

Moore hits Bush in open letter

NEW YORK—Controversial filmmaker Michael Moore has entered the fray over Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry's Vietnam war record with a sarcasm-soaked open letter to President George W. Bush accusing him of "attacking a wounded vet."

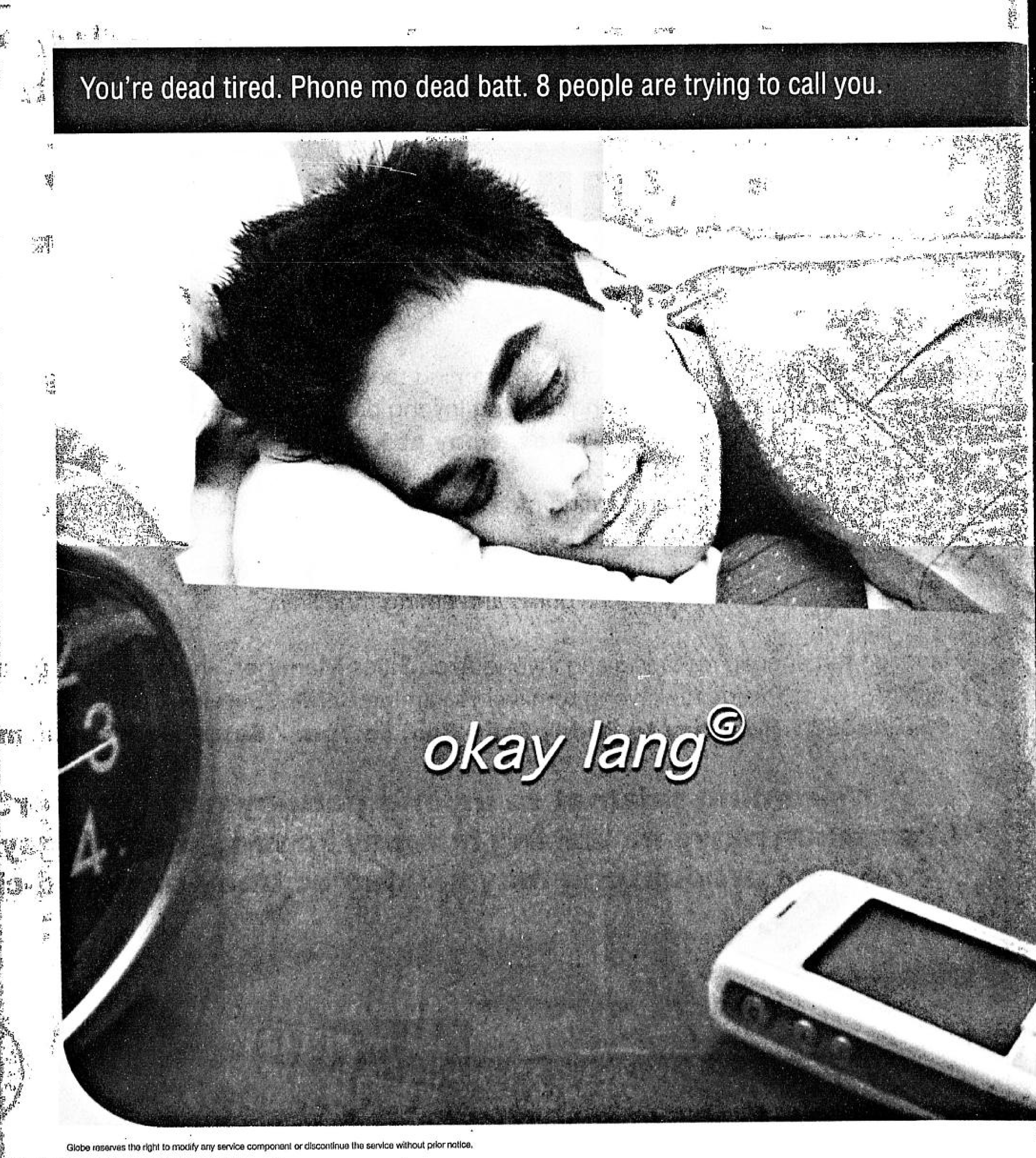
"It Takes Real Courage to Desert Your Post and Then Attack a Wounded Vet," is the opening salvo of the letter, dated Thursday, by the man whose Bush-bashing documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" was a box office blockbuster in the US last month after winning the coveted Palme d'Or prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

The letter accuses Bush of links to a veterans group that has questioned Kerry's honesty and record in Vietnam, where he was wounded three times and awarded Silver and Bronze Stars for valor.

Bush and his campaign have denied any connection with the group, called "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth." The president has described Kerry's Vietnam service as admirable but has declined to specifically condemn the attack ads.

"When it comes to pointing out other men's military records, there is no one who can touch your prowess," Moore said in the letter posted on his website (www.michaelmoore.com).

Moore accused Bush of using the same tactic with his rival in the 2000 Republican primaries, Vietnam veteran Sen. John McCain, and with former Sen. Max Cleland, a triple amputee who lost his 2002 election bid following a campaign in which opposition groups released ads comparing him to Osama bin Laden. *AFP*



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UN report says efforts to halt al-Qaida attacks not working

UNITED NATIONS—The threat of more al-Qaida terror attacks demands an organized global response but UN-led sanctions and other measures are not working, according to a damning new report by experts at the United Nations.

The experts call into question many of the basic assumptions in the war on terror, including efforts to cut off the flow of money to would-be terrorists even though all but the most spectacular attacks, such as Sept. 11, can be carried out at little cost.

Meanwhile al-Qaida and its supporters are making effective use of the media to drum up support in the Muslim world, capitalizing on anger over the war in Iraq and continuing to try for a potentially devastating chemical or biological bomb attack, the report said.

Drafted by a panel of outside experts, it paints a bleak picture of countries either languishing several steps behind international terrorists or unwilling to go beyond the basic paperwork required to demonstrate a good-faith effort to crack down on terror.

"The threat from al-Qaida related terrorism remains as great as ever, but the nature of the threat has changed," said the report to the UN Security Council, which put in place the monitoring mechanism being evaluated by the high-level panel.

"There is no prospect of an early end to attacks from al-Qaida associated terrorists," it said. "Using minimal resources and exploiting worldwide publicity, they have managed to create an international sense of crisis."

Efforts to block the sale of weapons and the movement of terror suspects—cornerstones of the UN sanctions regime against al-Qaida and Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers—have not been effective, the study said.

It recalled that the Security Council first determined that al-Qaida merited a united world response in October 1999—two years before the 2001 attacks on the United States that brought down the World Trade Center.

After Sept. 11, the council then passed a resolution requiring all UN member nations to freeze the assets, block arms sales and restrict the travel of any person or group believed to be linked to terrorism.

But the experts found that not even one nation had reported stopping either the travel or the sale of weapons to anyone on the UN list of those suspected of links to al-Qaida or the Taliban.

"Security Council sanctions aimed at curbing Taliban and al-Qaida terrorism have achieved less than was hoped," the report said. "This list has begun to lose credibility." Only 19 nations have said any person or group linked to al-Qaida is on their soil, even though the number of nations where the terror group operates is higher, the experts said, and just 34 countries have reported freezing assets.

Even then, they said, "in some cases it has been hard to tell what this means. It is not clear from all reports of asset freezing, for example, what those assets are, their value, or who owns them."

In Azerbaijan, only $40 in assets have been frozen. In Portugal, the figure is less than 325 euros.

Chile's UN ambassador Heraldo Munoz, who chairs the committee overseeing the sanctions based on information submitted by governments, will give a press conference on the findings on Monday.

The report exposed other crucial flaws, including the curb on weapons that does not cover the tools used in "most" al-Qaida attacks.

It cited the March train bombing in Madrid, which relied on mobile phones and mining explosives not covered by the sanctions. *AFP*

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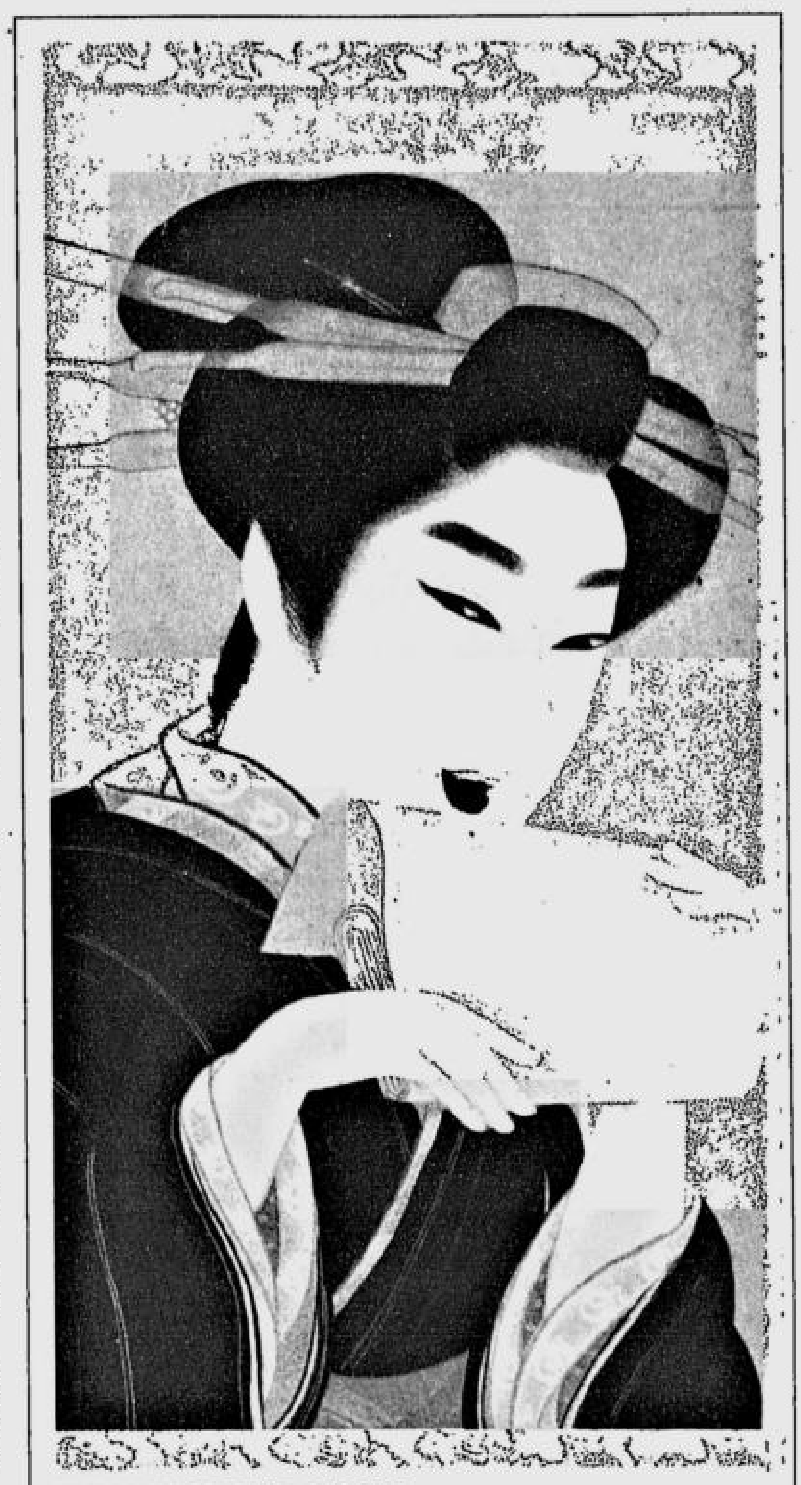

IMMORTALIZED GEISHA
"Kuchibeni," an ink and color on paper hanging scroll created 1808-1804 by Gion Seitoku depicting a courtesan of Shimabara, on display at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art in Washington. AP

Pope returns icon to Russians

MOSCOW—Patriarch Alexy II took possession here Saturday of an icon revered as sacred by the Russian Orthodox church after it was returned by Pope John Paul II in an ecumenical gesture to ease strained Orthodox-Roman Catholic relations.

But in a liturgical ceremony at a cathedral inside the Kremlin walls, witnessed by an AFP reporter, the head of the Russian church also warned the Vatican against competition in Russia and said the Pope would not be welcome in the country at this time.

"We are grateful to the Pope, and we hope that Catholics and Orthodox won't be competitors in Russia," the patriarch said during the ceremony as he received the famous 18th century icon, "Our Lady of Kazan," from papal envoy Cardinal Walter Kasper.

The artifact was spirited out of Russia in the 1920s after the Bolshevik revolution and has stood in Pope John Paul II's private apartments for more than a decade.

Asked after the ceremony if its return cleared the way for a visit to Russia by the 84-year-old Pontiff, Patriarch Alexy II responded in the negative.

"For the time being, conditions for a papal visit to Russia are not right," he said.

In an interview with Italy's Corriere della Sera daily, published Friday, Alexy II blasted the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches for proselytizing in traditionally Orthodox parts of the former Soviet Union. *AFP*

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OPINION

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Oink, oink

EDITORIAL

LOOK who's standing up to defend the pork barrel? Once (and future) street parliamentarians from the Bayan Muna party-list group, who say they have found a "pro-people" way of spending their Priority Development Assistance Fund.

Pointing to the example of a three-story "student activity center" at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines that their party-list group funded in part, Rep. Teodoro Casiño explained why they were not for abolishing the pork barrel, only for reducing it: "This project is one logical reason why the pork barrel need not be abolished, despite the raging fiscal crisis." The PUP project shows "how these funds can be effectively tapped for the direct benefit of the people."

We expect traditional politicians, such as two-termer Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon of Muntinlupa, to rise to the defense of the pork barrel system, as he did last Thursday. But street militants? The "use of congressional allocations for social services" help "make life a little less unbearable for our people," Biazon said. His words could have come straight from Casiño's mouth.

The assumption behind Biazon's argument, and Casiño's too, was made explicit by the new Deputy Speaker for the Visayas. "We know our constituents best," said Rep. Raul del Mar of Cebu City.

But the issue is not whether some uses of the pork barrel fit the need of the times. There is no question that legislators have used their PDAF money in the past to fund any number of projects "for the direct benefit of the people," from schools to farm-to-market roads. But it is precisely these projects which give all those who dip into the pork barrel the luxury of a clear conscience.

How many new school-buildings, how many artesian wells, have been used to justify the graft-stained use of the rest of the pork barrel?

The real issue—it is time to remind our honorable senators and congressmen—is whether there should be a pork barrel in the first place.

It is the duty of the executive to do the literal part of nation-building: to construct new markets, to repair old bridges, to bring potable water and cheap electricity to the remotest barangay. In policy terms, the issue can be quickly reduced to a simple question: Why should the legislature do the work of the executive?

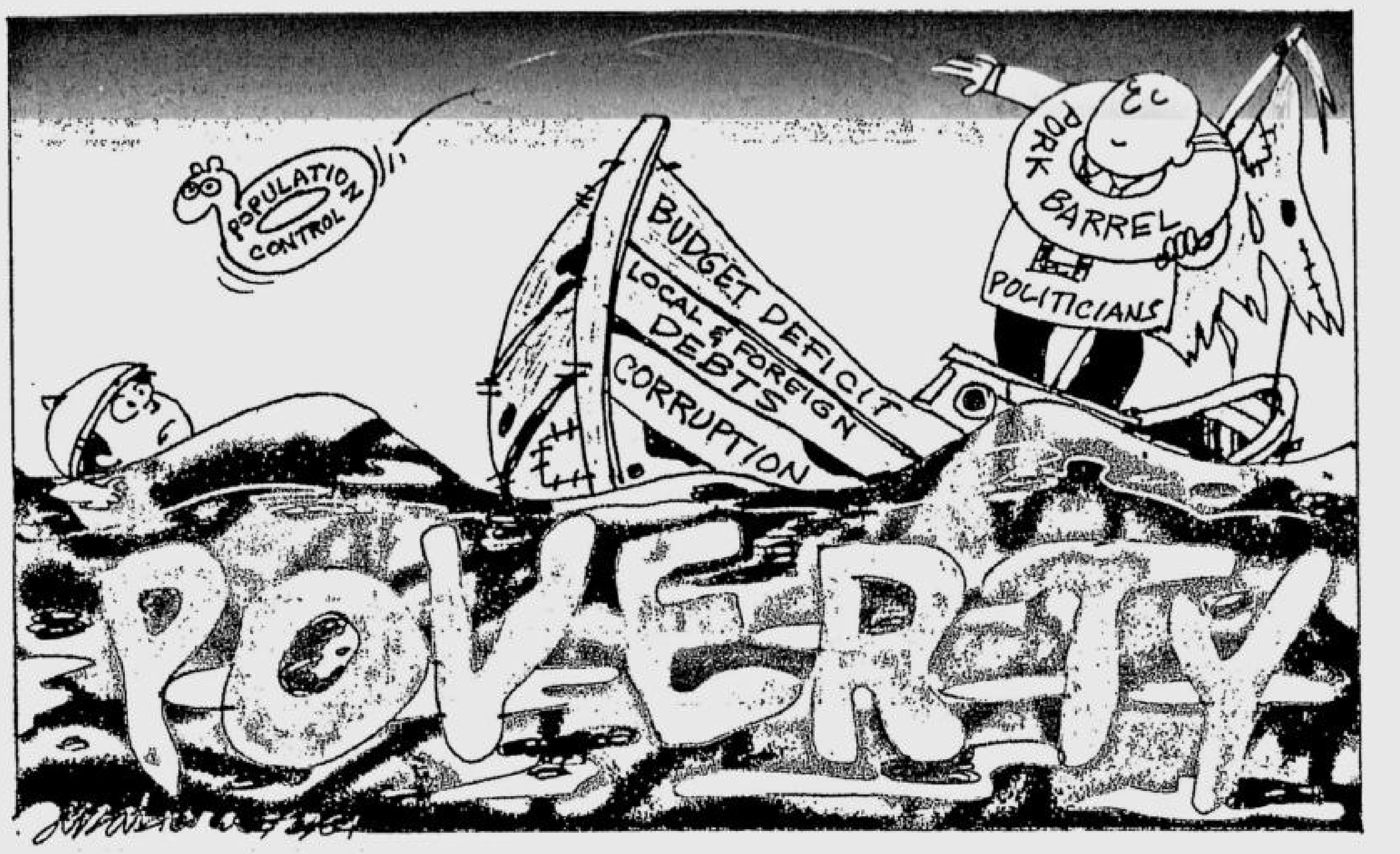
The argument that legislators know their constituents best is not an answer; it is a rationalization, ill-disguised as a principle. A congressman's constituency overlaps with that of the mayor, sometimes with the governor's, arguably with those of all the senators, and certainly with that of the President.

In realpolitik terms, of course, the issue is anything but simple. A senator or a congressman may need his pork barrel to recover his campaign expenses or to redeem his campaign promises, to directly employ assorted supporters or to directly influence local politics. It is no exaggeration to say that—even above congressional immunity or the congressional power to launch investigations in aid of legislation—the pork barrel is the main source of power for most legislators.

In realpolitik, too, constituency is a flexible term: it can, for instance, mean those who invested in one's campaign. This flexibility leads us to understand the true nature of the pork barrel: it is discretionary. While in theory, legislators can only pick priority projects from a basket of possibilities prepared by the budget department, the reality is it is the senators and congressmen who choose. They have virtual control over which projects to fund, and by how much.

This discretionary nature is why other legislators have rounded on the President, labeling the President's Social Fund her personal pork barrel. (In truth, the President's Social Fund is the net income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. It is what is left over, after Pagcor meets all its obligations under the law. The irony is that, as this paper has reported more than once, the Social Fund has become markedly smaller under this administration because of the practices of the Pagcor management this administration itself put in place.)

To be sure, even if the entire pork barrel were abolished, the government would save only about P20 billion, a little over 2 percent of next year's proposed budget. But the exercise of political will is what we need, and every single peso helps.



Case closed?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN THE EVENING of June 21, in Mandaluyong City, there was a shoot-out between two groups, one led by a son of former Sen. Robert Jaworski and the other by the son of a wealthy businessman. The exchange of gunfire lasted for some 10 minutes and was witnessed by several persons in the vicinity at the time. The young Jaworski was injured in the legs with gunshot wounds and in the eye from shards of broken glass. Several cars, including two belonging to bystanders, sustained bullet shots. Police picked up 82 spent shells after the gunfight.

Investigation immediately began for the appropriate indictment of the responsible parties. Among the expected charges were for frustrated murder or homicide, alarms and scandals, malicious mischief, illegal discharge of firearms, and possession of unlicensed guns.

Last week, however, came the disturbing report that no criminal case was to be filed because of the insufficiency of the evidence to establish the several crimes resulting from the incident. The prosecutor in charge dismissed the complaints for illegal discharge of firearms, alarms and scandals and malicious mischief "for lack of probable cause against the respondents."

It was explained that the police had been unable to secure the testimony of the supposed eyewitnesses to the shoot-out who were probably unwilling to involve themselves in the bloody confrontation between the two groups. The fact that they belonged to influential families might have been a deterrent. The damage to the cars, including those belonging to police officers who were then dining in a nearby restaurant, would also not prosper for failure to identify the persons who had caused it.

It was earlier disclosed that Ryan Jaworski was in possession of a number of firearms that were allegedly unlicensed, but this claim seems to have been glossed over. The police apparently have also not conducted a thorough investigation of the bullet holes in the damaged cars, the firearms that caused the shots, and the persons who fired them.

There were originally at least two persons who were ready to testify on what they actually saw that night, but they have become suddenly forgetful where they had been absolutely certain before. The speculation is that they have been threatened or paid to be silent by the guilty parties.

A protracted trial of the case could cause the protagonists much expense and inconvenience, not to mention possible conviction and punishment. Prolongation of the controversy could also aggravate the hostility of the parties where a truce between them would lessen tensions.

In the United States, it is the district attorney, usually an elective official, who is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of crime. Witnesses can be compelled to testify instead of being given a choice, as in this country, to pretend loss of memory or lack of knowledge to avoid court proceedings. False testimony in an American court is severely punished for disregard of the solemn oath while it is taken for granted in our own system and often resorted to as a matter of course.

While the district attorney can compel the police to look for the necessary evidence to support the filing of an information against a suspect, the local prosecutor can only wait for such evidence as the police are able, or willing, to submit to him. The prosecutor does not investigate but only prosecutes crime. It is the police that may—or may not—investigate, depending on their sense of duty or other compelling inducement like bribery. The prosecutor, for his part, has the discretion to accept or reject such evidence, also for sundry reasons including bribery.

The Mandaluyong gunfight reminds me of that bizarre case two years ago where a woman on the hunt for her husband's mistress shot an innocent nurse in anger. She would have callously left her to bleed to death if her driver had not seen fit to take the victim to the hospital not in the woman's car but in a public tricycle. She died on the way. The public was so incensed at the outrage and waited for the authorities to throw the book at the killer.

Absolutely nothing of the sort happened. The woman, who belonged to a wealthy family, has not been called to account for her heartless conduct. The prosecutor said that no charge could be filed against her because there was no witness to prove her crime. The police knew what had happened but had done nothing. The driver had also clammed up to protect his employer.

The nurse's family had probably decided to forgive the killer because their kin was already dead, after all, and no amount of judicial retribution could bring her back. There was strong suspicion that they had instead accepted a cash settlement in exchange for their desistance, but this has not been proved either.

As mercenary as this solution might be, it becomes starkly cold-blooded for being available only to those with money and influence to cheat the supposed impartiality of the law. This cynicism might also prevent further official action in the Mandaluyong affair unless, hopefully, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes does something about it. He is determined to have the guilty parties identified, whoever they are, and duly prosecuted and convicted.

Don't stumble, be humble

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

DID you hear the story about the wife who always insisted that she was right? Finally, she was left!

* * *

People who think they are always right, people who think they are better and greater than others would do well to listen to Jesus' message about humility in today's Gospel (Lk: 1,7-14). "For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be raised." Take the road of humility, and you can't go wrong. Remember, pride comes before the fall. All too often, we look back at our lives with regret because we did not learn the basic lesson of humility in life. If only we were humble, we would not have stumbled.

* * *

For those who think they are somebody, listen to D.L. Moody's reflection on Moses who spent 40 years thinking he was somebody; then he spent 40 years in the desert realizing he was nobody; finally he spent the last 40 years of his life learning what God can do with a nobody. The problem with many of us is that we spend our whole lifetime thinking and proving that we are somebody, when all we need to be is to be a someone.

* * *

I had the privilege of interviewing Bishop Oscar Solis last Aug. 22. It was good to see and talk again with "Ochie" who was one year my senior at Christ the King Seminary. Aside from his good looks, open mindedness, wit, passion and compassion, Bishop Solis struck me with his genuine humility. He acknowledges his unworthiness for his office as auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, California, and the presence of grace all throughout his formation years (eight of which were with the SVD), and all throughout his 25 years as a priest. He evokes respect and dignity as a bishop and as a person because of his humility and sincerity. It is not difficult to appreciate this "Dude" (his own words) because he knows how to self-depreciate.

* * *

Bishop Solis and I were in the seminary basketball varsity team. He is mean on three-point and lay-up shots. Again what I remember most about him is his ability for team work, a trait which he often emphasizes in his work now to serve all the ethnic groups, and not only the Filipinos in Los Angeles. This is very much in line with today's Gospel message of inviting to the feast not only those who are familiar and the influential.

* * *

On a personal note, I specifically noted the personal devotion of Bishop Solis to the Blessed Mother. We share a common practice of carrying and praying the rosary since our childhood days. I remember again the words of our novice master, the late Fr. Alphonse Mildner, SVD: "You can become a priest without the Blessed Mother, but I doubt if you will become a good priest without the Blessed Mother." May Mama Mary teach us deep gratitude and true humility.

* * *

One final note: When I asked Bishop Solis what he will say to God when he finally comes face to face with Him, he paused, bowed his head, and then with a smile, looked up and said: "Why me, God? What have I ever done to deserve all the blessings in my lifetime?" I knew in my heart that this was coming from a man who has known success as well as trials in life, and who has held on to God in humility. I pray that he becomes a cardinal someday. But knowing Bishop Solis, the good basketball player that he is, he remains focused not on the points, but on the goal.

* * *

Confucius once said that there are three methods to become wise: By reflection, which is the noblest; by imitation which is the easiest; by experience which is the bitterest. Having cancer is a bitter, painful experience, but it has led my sister-in-law Ditas Colet Orbos and all of us to a lot of learning and wisdom. Ditas calls cancer a gift, for out of this dreaded killer has come out many life-giving realizations and healing. Please pray for Ditas. Pray for all cancer patients and survivors that they may continue to give wisdom, inspiration and life to all of us.

* * *

Sickness and other tragedies are humbling experiences. They make us realize once more who we are and who God is. In our busy lives, we tend to forget the best exercise, that of bending one's knees, and that of raising up one's hands in surrender to God. Try as we might, we can't go on running away from God, nor can we in resentment continue to fight God. Stop fighting God. You can't win. Start loving God. You will win.

* * *

Ella Sanchez of Executive Resources has started doing local Marian pilgrimages. The first one was in beautiful Bohol. The second one will be on Sept. 22 to 24 going to Manaoag, Agoo, Baguio and the Isla Maria in Pangasinan. Yes, let's help promote local tourism and be nourished spiritually in our very own beautiful country. For particulars, please call 5238581 to 88.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to be humble so that I do not stumble. Amen.

In US politics, the gloves are off

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

CHICAGO, Illinois—For the past three weeks, the dark side of US politics took center stage, holding the attention of many American voters over an issue that took place more than 30 years ago. Unlike Philippine politics, it had nothing to do with the citizenship qualifications of any of the candidates running for the presidency in November. It concerned the Vietnam War record of the democratic contender Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

Last month, at the Democratic convention in Boston, Kerry made his service record in Vietnam one of the centerpieces of his campaign strategy against President Bush. It was a fellow war veteran, a paraplegic, former Sen. Max Cleland, who formally introduced him to the convention delegates. Other former Vietnam comrades as well as retired generals formed a solid line of backers on the stage as he delivered his acceptance speech. Kerry served in Vietnam in 1968-69 commanding US Navy "swift boats" patrolling coastal waters and inland rivers in the Mekong Delta. During his brief stint in Vietnam, he was awarded a Silver Star for leading an attack on enemy units laying in ambush along the Bay Hap River; a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts for shrapnel wounds inflicted during three separate encounters. He elected to return home after being wounded in action on those occasions and became a leading anti-war protestor in Washington.

In contrast, Bush spent the war stateside in Air National Guard units in Texas and Alabama, assignments which were questioned in television ads aired by Democratic campaign supporters.

In early August, a group calling itself the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" came out with a political advertisement assailing the war record and integrity of Kerry. The ad portrayed him as having lied about his Vietnam experiences. In addition, a book "Unfit for Command;" co-authored by John O'Neill, also a former Swift Boat commander and Jerome Corsi, criticized Kerry, saying that his actions in Vietnam were stupid rather than courageous and that he had a penchant for fabricating events in pursuit of medals and ribbons.

What is remarkable about the attack ads by this group, considering the limited number of states in which they were aired, is that they have generated so much debate and attention with talk show programs and cable news outlets devoting much air time on the subject.

Although recent polls indicate some negative impact on the Kerry campaign, I find difficult to see any long-term advantage in the ads for the White House. The controversy can only remind voters that Kerry enlisted in the US Navy and volunteered for Vietnam duty, winning five medals, while Bush remained in the United States in a controversial stint with the Air National Guard. Even this posting has come under a cloud.

Both camps have come to exploit these attack ads. Under federal election regulations, Section 527, contributions to certain political organizations are allowed provided no coordination of their activities is carried out with official party campaign programs. Hence, the term 527 groups. Democrats have called on Bush to condemn the ads produced by the Swift Boat people, but so far the Republicans, as expected, have denied any connection with the group and instead have countered that all 527 group ads should stop. These activities represent hardball politics, American-style—covert mudslinging, with little regard for the truth.

The more damaging political ads released only last week have to do with Kerry's activities after returning from Vietnam. He became a leader of the anti-war movement (Vietnam Veterans Against the War) and his appearances before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at that time did not endear him to many of his fellow Vietnam vets. His testimony before the committee concerned the behavior of a number of US troopers whom he accused of rape, cutting off ears of dead Viet Cong and the killing of innocent civilians. These statements, part of the Senate record, did not sit well with other veterans who saw them as a betrayal of the national interest, providing comfort to the enemy. They have never forgiven Kerry for his actions.

Today, the Republicans stage their own convention in New York City, aware of the fact that the coming elections could be as close as the 2000 race which saw the Democratic candidate, Al Gore, winning the popular vote but losing out in the electoral college contest. Unlike Philippine politics, there will be no protests by the losers; concession statements follow swiftly. *(We are in Windy City visiting our grandchildren. One day, they will be voting for an American president.)*

* * *

Recently, the Philippines lost two pillars of industry. Ponciano C. Marquez, chairman emeritus and founder of Virjen Shipping Corp., passed away at age 83. Pons Marquez started from the bottom ranks. By virtue of hard work and a solid reputation for integrity, he launched Virjen, establishing it as one of the leading firms in the maritime business. The torch of leadership had earlier been passed on to his second son, Eric.

Antonio R. Herrera Sr., chairman and president of Electrobus Consolidated Inc., was a quiet and dedicated businessman who was honored as the Outstanding Professional in Mechanical Engineering by the Professional Regulations Commission. He also served as chairman, Board of Mechanical Engineering (PRC) from 1995 to 2003 and was recognized for his leadership as president of the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers. His son, Antonio Herrera Jr., takes over the reins of the company.

Delia Albert's finest hour

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HAVING weathered what she called "the biggest challenge of my career," outgoing Foreign Secretary Delia Albert took time Thursday to recall the highs and lows of a nearly 40-year career in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

She nearly didn't have a chance to deliver her "valedictory," an address before the Rotary Club of Manila, since news of her replacement at the DFA by former Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo hit the headlines just two days before the event. Wondering if she shouldn't instead yield the occasion to the new foreign affairs chief, Albert was graciously assured by the club president Alex Yap that "we invited the person, not the position."

Present as guests of Ms Albert was a table-full of women, including sisters in the diplomatic service, the ambassadors of India and Australia who are both women, Muslim women leaders in the civil service and in civil society, her daughter Joy, and women in academe and the media, including this columnist. "Were you sending a message to the Rotarians (the RCM is an all-male enclave) by inviting a group of women today?" I asked Albert after her talk. "Of course!" she said with a laugh. This is one woman diplomat—the first and so far only woman to head the department—with guts and daring.

* * *

ALBERT'S "biggest challenge," of course, was the Angelo de la Cruz kidnap crisis, the possibility of which, she recalls, she brought up in a meeting at the DFA as soon as the first hostage-takings in Iraq took place. "What if it happens to a Filipino?" she remembers asking out loud at the meeting, giving rise to a number of contingency measures and protocols "just in case."

But when the "real thing" did happen, Albert says even the best-laid plans proved inadequate for a highly volatile situation. "We were dealing from a position of weakness," she says, "relying only on intermediaries to negotiate with the kidnappers."

At first, she recounts, officials weren't even sure if the hostage shown on the Al Jazeera tape was really a Filipino, since the name given was "Hamid Anan," which turned out to be the name of a Saudi worker riding with De la Cruz. Anan had been killed when their convoy was ambushed.

A co-worker of De la Cruz, however, called the embassy in Iraq and said the hostage resembled a Filipino he knew, but still it took the DFA hours trawling through the records of 48 Angelo de la Cruzes in the Middle East before they established the hostage's identity.

But thanks to the preparations they had taken, Albert says, the DFA was immediately able "to put a crisis team in place" in Baghdad. "There were times when we weren't even sure if Angelo was alive, and that is the reason I had to appear on TV and deliver messages to the kidnappers through the media, to bolster the efforts of our negotiators."

This also explains the media "blackout" imposed a day or so after the crisis broke out, Albert explained. "Overly creative media representatives were undermining our credibility, and there was no room for misinterpretation."

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT, and the President, faced a "range of options," Albert explained, though she asserts that "(paying) ransom was out of the question." One consideration, though, was "what will the more than 30 countries in the Coalition (of the Willing) think of us" if the government acceded to the kidnappers' demands? Albert hastens to add, though, that the Philippine contingent was scheduled to leave by Aug. 20, or just about a month hence, anyway.

It was the President who decided early on, says Albert, that "we are going to save Angelo." Contrasted against their concerns regarding the coalition members, she said, was the question "what would our eight million Filipinos working abroad think if we proved willing to sacrifice Angelo? Would each of them think, 'our government would also be willing to sacrifice me?' This is why our decision was also seen as a message to all Filipinos who are out there."

The De la Cruz abduction, says Albert, "brought out everything I knew about diplomacy," and even required her to call on contacts made in her decades of diplomatic work around the world, including women diplomats who played important roles in the negotiations.

But given the subsequent events, and the international furor and fall-out from the withdrawal of the Philippine contingent, Albert seems steadfast in her belief that the decision made was in the country's national interest.

* * *

RECENTLY, she recounts, she met a former OFW who told her he had been monitoring the developments in Angelo's kidnap and rejoiced with many other OFWs at Angelo's release. "*Ngayon ko lang naramdaman na ang gobyerno pala natin, eh, ipagtatanggol ang karaniwang Pilipino* (Only now do I feel that our government will defend an ordinary Filipino)," the worker told her.

Albert says she met De la Cruz personally only recently, because she had been traveling in the days after his homecoming. "He said he wanted to see me and thank me personally because while he was being held captive, every time he saw my face on TV, he knew it meant an extension of his life."

"Making diplomacy and foreign affairs accessible and understandable to the public," says Albert, was one of her major goals as foreign secretary. And indeed her efforts on behalf of Angelo brought home the meaning of diplomacy to even the humblest Filipino. After all, it's our diplomats who represent, for the millions of Pinoys abroad, the government's care and concern.

And it should make us feel good that, to our countryfolk "out there," it's people like Delia Albert—even if she is no longer the foreign secretary—who are the face of Philippine diplomacy.

The Magsaysay Awards

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOCIETIES reaffirm their values in two ways: first, by punishing crime, and second, by recognizing good deed. The moral crises of today's societies arise from the fact that they now tend to do less of the latter. Not so much for a lack of willingness to reward the good, but from a growing inability to identify what is good.

When norms get blurred, indifference finds refuge in a crippling moral relativism. Our capacity for revulsion is weakened. We learn to negotiate duty. We are no longer awed by moral beauty.

This situation is not helped by the proliferation of award-giving bodies that, at the toss of a coin, give out medals or trophies for the most banal achievements. Neither is it relieved by the proliferation of "who's who" publications offering instant fame for the price of a subscription.

By cheapening achievement, they make recognition a worthless event. By trivializing virtue, they rob it of its power to inspire. When cynicism reigns, we begin to doubt our own spontaneous admiration for many acts of goodness in everyday life.

Some values must be protected from erosion. In the last 47 years, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation has tried to be a responsible trustee of one particular value—"greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia." The key phrase is "greatness of spirit." The founders of this award believed this was the most striking trait of the late president, whose legacy we call to mind every year by the awards named after him.

What can this value possibly mean in our time?

Haydee Yorac helped restore the dignity of the civil service at a time when government evokes only images of corruption and incompetence. Undaunted and always willing to serve, Haydee showed that government work can indeed be the highest vocation of a citizen. She is this year's recipient of the Award for Government Service.

Jiang Yanyong of China is both a soldier and a doctor. When the mysterious SARS ailment began to spread in his country, he worried that the official policy of concealing the true extent of the epidemic could result in the loss of more lives. His sense of duty as a doctor prevailed over the imperatives of military discipline. Dr. Jiang spoke out and called attention to the urgent need to inform and protect the population. He is the recipient of the Award for Public Service.

Prayong Ronnarong is a rubber farmer from Thailand who refused to bow to the whims of the world market when the price of raw rubber dropped suddenly. Why not process the rubber ourselves, he asked his fellow farmers. A genius at community organizing, Prayong defied conventional thinking by building community-based rural industries. The model of rural industrialization he pioneered is now being replicated all over Thailand. He is the awardee for Community Leadership.

Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bangladesh taught literature in Dhaka for many years. He refused to think that his country's economic poverty should also mean poverty of the mind. He formed "reading circles" that got young people to study great works of literature. He acquired old buses, filled them with books, and launched them as mobile public-lending libraries. Sayeed is the 2004 awardee for Journalism, Literature, and Communicative Communication Arts.

Laxminarayan Ramdas used to be the chief of the Indian Navy. Today he is a staunch advocate of the de-militarization of the Indian sub-continent. He and the Pakistani human rights advocate Ibn Abdur Rehman shared the leadership of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy for many years, tirelessly organizing people-to-people dialogues across this troubled continent and speaking out against prejudice and war. The Foundation confers on them the joint Award for Peace and International Understanding.

And finally, Benjamin Abadiano, the epitome of the young volunteer who, searching for personal meaning, finds it in being a person for others. The Foundation honors him for his work among the Mangyans of Oriental Mindoro, for whom he started a comprehensive school now mostly staffed by Mangyan teachers. He is also being recognized for his work with thousands of families in Mindanao displaced by war, particularly among the *lumad* or indigenous tribes, for whom he established the same culture-based training program he pioneered in Mindoro. Abadiano is the recipient of the Award for Emergent Leadership.

A careful examination of the life and work of Magsaysay awardees reveals two outstanding traits. The first is courage, the second is generosity. They are the same virtues that Ralph Waldo Emerson associates with heroism.

Of courage, Emerson writes: "It is a self-trust which slights the restraints of prudence, in the plenitude of its energy and power to repair the harms it may suffer….It is the state of the soul at war, and its ultimate objects are the last defiance of falsehood and wrong, and the power to bear all that can be inflicted by evil agents….It persists, it is of an undaunted boldness and of a fortitude not to be wearied out."

But courage is what it is because its wellspring is a generous heart.

"The brave soul," wrote Emerson, "rates itself too high to value itself by the splendor of its table and draperies. It gives what it hath, and all it hath…. The magnanimous know very well that they who give time, or money, or shelter to the stranger—so it be done for love and not for ostentation—do, as it were, put God under obligation to them, so perfect are the compensations of the universe."

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Scrap barangay and SK elections

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

IF frequency of elections were used as the measure of a country's wealth, we probably would be considered the richest in the world.

This coming Nov. 26, six months after the presidential elections, the people of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will elect a governor, vice governor and some 120 regional assemblymen.

Then in October 2005, it will be the barangay elections. The following year, we will hold the Sangguniang Kabataan polls. In 2007, the people will choose a new set of senators, congressmen and local government officials. By express provision of the Constitution, all these events have to be supervised by the Commission on Elections.

In the face of this tight schedule, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos is asking Congress to consider the idea of postponing, if not scrapping, some of these political exercises. Unless Congress heeds Abalos' suggestion, the Comelec—which is still trying to regain its bearings after the bitterly contested presidential race—has to start the preparations for the ARMM polls.

Since the ARMM, barangay and SK elections are products of congressional action, they can be reset or cancelled as the senators and congressmen may decide. In fact, these polls have been previously re-scheduled for financial and political reasons.

But not the 2007 elections which are mandated by the Constitution. In the absence of a constitutional amendment, the Comelec has no choice but to go through with them. This once-every-three years schedule has been scrupulously observed since the adoption of the 1987 Constitution.

Election costs

At least P50 million will be needed to defray the costs of materials, facilities and manpower for the conduct of elections in the six provinces and city covered by the ARMM, namely, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Marawi City. For the barangay and SK polls, the election bill will be no less than P1 billion each, or a total of P2 billion.

These figures do not include the incidental expenses that the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police will incur to maintain peace and order in the traditional election hot spots.

Setting aside sentimental and legal considerations, is there really a pressing need to elect a new set of officials for the ARMM?

The components of the ARMM have their respective local executives and legislative bodies, all of whom received a fresh mandate from their constituencies only last May 10. The ARMM officials constitute another layer of the local bureaucracy with its governor, vice governor, a Cabinet of sorts and a separate legislative assembly.

The ARMM is basically an expanded version of the Metro Manila Development Authority which acts as the coordinating body for Metro Manila cities and municipalities. At the end of the day, it is the elected officials of the ARMM provinces and city who will call the shots in their respective territories, with the ARMM playing a supporting role.

As things stand at present, the two sets of officials that are administering the affairs of the ARMM areas seem to be working with each other harmoniously. So what's the rush in holding an election that may only stoke fiery passions in a region known for political volatility and tension? The ARMM polls can be suspended, probably, to coincide with the 2007 local elections.

Barangay officials

With regard to the barangay elections, it bears noting that they were initially conceived to be non-partisan or devoid of political color. Unfortunately, this so-called "grass-roots" political exercise has been anything but that. The campaigns for barangay posts have been conducted with the flair and expense that approximate those for national and local government positions.

Although the candidates do not formally run under the auspices of political parties, it is common knowledge that the financial support of politicians is critical to victory in the polls. The quid pro quo is, come Election Day, the barangay officials will take care of bringing the voters to the polling places and guarding the votes of favored national and local candidates.

The highly personal nature of the campaign for barangay posts—especially in communities where the residents are related to each other by blood or marriage—makes this activity more intense and emotionally charged. Loss of face arising from defeat in a barangay contest often leads to bloody confrontations between neighbors and relatives.

For practical reasons, most barangay officials affiliate with or follow the lead of their city or municipal mayors. Without independent sources of revenue, the barangays look to their mayors, and to some extent their governors and congressmen, for the money needed to finance their community projects.

The barangay elections are expendable. The objectives of grass-roots representation can be achieved, without spending P1 billion, by giving the mayors the authority to appoint the barangay officials in their respective areas for a term of office equal to that of the appointing power.

Marcos vintage

And who needs the SK elections? A brainchild of President Marcos during the martial law years, this political exercise traces its roots to the Kabataang Barangay concept that he promoted to give his daughter, now Rep. Imee Marcos, national exposure for political purposes.

Purportedly aimed at giving the youth meaningful exposure to public service, the SK polls have degenerated into a launching pad of the political ambitions of the sons and daughters of political dynasties. At an early age, SK candidates learn the art of political wheeling-and-dealing and horse-trading to assure their victory. With this kind of exposure, no wonder, our national and local politics are in the pits.

In the years that the SK system has been in place, it has nothing to show by way of accomplishments for the millions of funds it received from the government. Except for occasional anti-illegal drugs campaigns that are long on publicity but short on substance, SK activities have become cover-ups for socials and "gimmicks" by youths who have so much time and money (read: public funds) in their hands.

The savings that will be generated from postponing the ARMM polls for three years and scrapping the barangay and SK elections are substantial. By any standards, P2 billion plus will help mitigate the adverse effects of the fiscal crisis that our country is going through at present.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

UP 11 plan: Can it keep RP afloat?

WE ARE RUNNING the executive summary of the 28-page paper "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt," which warns of economic collapse in two to three years unless government reins in the public sector deficit and its debt, to encourage discussions on the economic problems that we face.

The paper by Emmanuel de Dios, Benjamin Diokno, Emmanuel Esguerra, Raul Fabella, Ma. Socorro Gochoco-Bautista, Felipe Medalla, Solita Monsod, Ernesto Pernia, Renato Reside Jr., Gerardo Sicat and Edita Tan has elicited a response from Walden Bello of the Bangkok-based Focus on the Global South, and from Lidy Nacpil and Ana Marie Nemenzo—both of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

We will print Bello, Nacpil and Nemenzo's paper, "The UP School of Economics Report: Overdue, Selective, Not Daring Enough," in the next issue of Talk of the Town.

ILLUSTRATION FROM A BOOK COVER BY ARNEL MIRASOL

Measures assigning fair burden to all stands a fair chance of success

In her State of the Nation Address in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo drew attention to the government's worsening fiscal and debt problems, calling the deficit "our most urgent problem." That was an accurate statement. The looming threat represented by an uncontrolled public debt is indeed the biggest economic challenge the country will have to confront immediately and for the remainder of this decade.

Recent events and discussions give ample reason to doubt whether the President's message has been truly understood and internalized by the political elite and public alike—and hence whether the issue will be given its due importance. The quality of public debate on the issue stirs grave doubts whether the scale and consequences of "our most urgent problem" are indeed being fully appreciated.

Debts and deficits—the stylized facts

The national government's total debt stood at P3.36 trillion as of the end of 2003, split almost equally between foreign and domestic liabilities. This was as large as 78 percent of the gross national product (GDP) in 2003. The outstanding debt of the public sector as a whole (the consolidated public sector debt) was running at more than 130 percent of GDP. Both are on the uptrend.

The two largest failures that have led to the present critical state of public finances are first, the failure of the tax structure and bureaucracy, and second, the inefficiency and lack of accountability on the part of public corporations.

Between 1997 and 2003 the national government's debt rose by P2.01 trillion, from P1.35 trillion to P3.36 trillion. Of this total increase (See Table 1), 43 percent was due to deficits incurred by the national government during the same period. It is significant, however, that more than one-third (37 percent) of the build-up in debt is due not to accumulated deficits but to "non-budgetary accounts" and off-book items such as assumed liabilities and lending to corporations.

Unlike the debt crisis experienced in the late 1980s, however, the increasing debt service today has not been precipitated by suddenly higher interest rates that the government must pay on its debt. This assertion is evident if one views the trends in the primary surplus, that is, revenues less expenditures excluding debt service. The government has more or less run surpluses net of debt service (primary surpluses running to almost six percent of GDP in 1994), but these disappeared noticeably from 1999. By the end of 2003, the primary surplus was down to 0.6 percent of GDP. Thus, it is evident that the current trajectory is unsustainable. Unlike 1983 to 1984, however, this time the problems were largely of the government's own doing.

Falling tax effort

It is indisputable, however, that this deterioration was not due to any sudden spike in budgetary spending. Instead what is clear is that falling revenue and tax efforts have been the main reason for the worsening deficit picture since 1997. The tax effort in particular fell from a high of 17 percent of GDP in 1997 to only 12.5 percent by 2003. That this occurred even during years of continuous, though moderate, economic growth strongly suggests that serious structural flaws have crept into the revenue system. Bureaucratic corruption and tax evasion could not have been the sole or major culprit in the declining revenue effort.

Hence, the problem of the ballooning government debt cannot be attributed solely to the "extravagance" of government budgets, or the inadequacy of its tax revenues. An equally important part of the story has been the dismal performance of government-run corporations and the equally disastrous policies of all previous administrations that have affected them. Both have played a major role in determining the size of the debt and the burden that taxpayers must bear to service it.

Napocor debt

Experience has shown that the national government will frequently step in to assume the debts of government corporations when these run into trouble and fail. The result: what ought to have been liabilities only of these corporations and the clients they serve become transformed into debts of the national government and of all Filipinos. Most of these are classified as "non-budgetary accounts" (See Table 1).

On the other hand, the other off-budget item we have decided to call "assumed liabilities and net lending to corporations" (ALNLC) in Table 1 is more difficult to assess. Unlike "non-budgetary accounts," a large part of which is a legacy of the past, the size of ALNLC is essentially indeterminate, since this must wait on future decisions regarding how much further government will assume the debt incurred by government corporations. Among the large new debts recently assumed by the national government have been those of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the Philippine Estates Authority. Over the past five years alone (1999 to 2003) the national government took over P44.5 billion of Napocor debt. Other liabilities that may be in the pipeline for takeover and which could mysteriously make a surprise budgetary appearance include those of the SSS, GSIS, and the RSBS.

The ALNLCs make up more than one-fifth of the increase in total debt thus far. But another source of indeterminacy in the ALNLCs stems from the fact that a good part of them are "contingent liabilities," whose magnitudes are variable, since whether and how much of them the government must pay depends on certain "triggers" being activated. When, for example, Napocor entered into purchased-power agreements with some private producers of electricity, it did so under "take-or-pay" clauses that committed the government to pay the generator a fixed amount, regardless of whether Napocor sold all the electricity or not.

Self-inflicted

In other cases, the ballooning of such liabilities is inflicted by the government on itself. For example the government, for political reasons, decided to reduce power-rate charges and light-rail fares to levels below the prices it contracted to pay. Until these prices change, therefore, the difference shows up as debt service in the budget.

A relevant question then becomes how much the national government is ultimately likely to owe and how much it should be prepared to pay from taxes and other revenues. Is it the large figure of P3.36 trillion or the even-larger figure of P4.13 trillion (as of February)? The answer is certainly "some figure between the two." At this point, however, no one can tell exactly how much the final figure will be. Whether the debt-service payments of the national government are bigger or smaller will depend on (a) how well government-run corporations perform their operations and stay out of financial trouble; and (b) whether or not government decides to bail out failing corporations and assume their liabilities.

This late in the day, staving off a full-blown fiscal crisis really boils down to attaining one goal, stopping the growth of the government debt as proportion of GDP. In other words, maintain it indefinitely at its current level of 78 percent, or lower. In the end, any combination of measures that falls short of accomplishing this goal merely raises false hopes and cannot be regarded as serious.

Burden sharing

There is no simple, clever, or painless solution to the impending crisis; those who say otherwise are being either naïve or disingenuous, or both. But even as any adequate solution will demand sacrifice, our concern is that sacrifice should be fairly apportioned. People will demand, and government should aim for, a solution that is not only effective but also just.

In the spirit of beginning a constructive public discussion of alternatives, we set down what we regard as both a workable and fair approach to resolving the government's fiscal predicament (summarized in Table 2). No omniscience is claimed, and others are welcome to dispute the tenor and the numbers of these suggestions. Considering the nation's predicament and the need for urgent action, however, it is but fair to ask them one thing: do better. Hence:

1. Limit the burden of servicing off-budget liabilities to 1.5 percent of GDP through price-and fee-adjustments, cost-cutting, and management pay-cuts in government corporations.

This implies that a ceiling must be set on the rate at which the national government assumes the debt of these corporations, the servicing of which is currently equivalent to some 3 percent of GDP. Doing this means compelling these corporations to get back on sound financial footing. For the most part, however, the most effective immediate action will entail decisions to allow increases in the prices or fees for specific services (notably power). Indeed the first order of business is for the administration to turn its back on the past practice of politicized price-setting.

Table 1: Accounting for the increase in debt 1997 to 2003

Increase in the national government debt	P 2,009.45B	100.0%
• Due to national government deficits	P 855.69B	42.6%
• Due to exchange-rate change	P 377.54B	18.8%
• Due to non-budgetary accounts	P 320.55B	16.0%
• Due to assumed liabilities and lending to corporations	P 428.10B	21.3%
• Increase in cash	P 27.54B	1.4%

2. Raise the national government's primary surplus to control the size of the debt and to safeguard the basis for future growth.

The government needs to exert extraordinary efforts to sustain a larger primary surplus. If the aim is simply to put a stop to the growth of debt relative to GDP, then the primary surplus must rise to 2.5 percent of GDP, compared with the current 0.6 percent. This means raising additional revenues or cutting additional costs equivalent to about P81.7 billion annually.

Education

In addition to the reforms required to prevent a crisis from recurring in the future, provisions must be made for an expansion of essential budgets, such as those for physical infrastructure and education, and possibly pay down debt in the future. A prudent program would provide for an increase in the annual GDP share of these essential budget items, say by an additional 1 to 1.5 percentage points (about P43 billion to P64 billion).

If this is taken into account, government needs additional revenue raising or cost cutting measures. The new measures must therefore raise a total of 2.9 percent of GDP, of which 1.9 percent is to achieve the minimum primary surplus of 2.5 percent needed for debt maintenance and 1 percent is to augment budgets of vital infrastructure and education. If further amounts are raised this may be used to retire debt. This allows for a maintenance of at least current growth rates of output and avoiding any permanent rise in inflation, depreciation, and interest rates. In 2003 figures, this would be equivalent to raising additional revenues or cutting costs equal to a minimum of about P125 billion annually.

3. Raise revenues by closing off tax-loopholes, updating existing taxes, passing new revenue measures, and reallocating spending.

Our own suggested criteria for evaluating proposed revenue- or cost-cutting measures are as follows: (a) implement the full intent of existing laws ahead of new taxes; (b) distribute the burden of cost-adjustment and spending cuts throughout government; (c) consider only new taxes based on strict economic justification and ease of collection, in that order.

ODA loans

On this basis, we endorse the measures contained in Table 2. Taken together, these measures, which either reduce costs or raise revenues, could conservatively help raise the primary surplus to the required 2.5 percent of GDP, in line with earlier macroeconomic discussions, and assuming the current surplus level of 0.6 percent of GDP is preserved, as well as sustain vital spending.

The list in Table 2 is not exhaustive, and there is obviously further room for creative suggestions from other sectors. A distinct possibility we might mention is that the demonstration of commitment to a reform package such as this may make it possible to obtain more substantial official development assistance (ODA) in the form of program loans. Owing to fiscal problems, we are currently unable to fully utilize ODA loans for lack of the required counterpart funds for project loans. This has resulted in borrowing at expensive market rates to pay maturing ODA loans without getting sufficient cash from new loans. New loans would reverse the current negative resource transfers with official lenders.

Timing

Timing these measures presents a distinct challenge to economic statesmanship on all sides. Two factors must be considered: first, the pace of the measures must demonstrate sufficient credibility and resolve before both foreign and domestic creditors to forestall any further slide in credit ratings or increase in interest rates. A second concern, on the other hand, is calibrating the phase-in of the measures in order to maintain macroeconomic stability and not to interrupt growth. Implemented in a haphazard and uncoordinated manner, the spate of tax increases and new measures could provoke an economic downturn.

To cut through uncertainty and effect a turnaround in the investment climate, the government must show decisive action early on. Specifically the following measures need to be accomplished immediately: (a) passage through Congress of the law adjusting the excise on alcohol and tobacco products; (b) immediate action within the executive to plug various tax leaks; (c) the President's declaration of an "unsustainable public deficit" and, immediately following this, (d) the withholding of part of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) and the pork barrel.

Table 2: Possible immediate revenue- and cost-saving measures

a. Indexation of specific taxes on tobacco and alcohol	P 14.0 billion
b. Closing off tax leaks plus additional BIR effort	P 12.4B
c. P2-specific tax on petroleum	P 12.0B
d. Motor-vehicle fee increase and	P2.0B
e. Eight-percent increase in excise on new vehicle registration	P 3.2B
f. Increase VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent and expand coverage	P 25.0B
g. Reduce IRA to 30 percent	P 35.2B
h. Halve pork barrel allocations	P 10.7B
i. Other measures to be identified	P 10.3B
Subtotal (new measures)	**P 124.8B**
j. Existing primary surplus	P 25.8B
Total (Higher primary surplus plus new measures)	**P 150.6 billion**

INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Toward the end of this year, Congress needs to clear the legislation raising the value-added tax (VAT) rate and removing exemptions. The amendment to the law on the road users' tax raising vehicle registration fees should also be passed, with the proper distinction made between public and private vehicles. Simultaneously, mandatory drug tests for drivers should be abolished, to be replaced henceforth with random testing. To moderate their impact, however, both the amended and increased VAT and the vehicle-registration fee increase can be made to take effect only in 2005.

Petroleum tax

Legislation on the additional excise on petroleum may be enacted in early 2005 at the latest, at which time the two-percent tariff on oil imports should also be withdrawn. Implementation of the P2 per liter hike in petroleum taxes, however, may be held off until later in the year, as soon as world oil prices have peaked. It should be emphasized that in general taxes approved need not take effect immediately. The country has gained good and valuable experiences in enacting taxes that are phased in gradually (the road users' tax is one example).

The last milestone in the short run is the completion of the sale of Napocor's generation and transmission assets. By mid-2005 the executive branch should have begun the sale, with privatization being hopefully completed by late 2005 or early 2006. An improved investment climate brought on by the taming of the deficit in mid-2005 is an important element for an auspicious and advantageous sale of Napocor; conversely, the Napocor sale represents the definitive solution to the single biggest source of debt-surprises for the government.

Downsizing, privatization

If undertaken with resolve, demonstrable solidarity between both the political leadership, and a modicum of understanding from the public, the effects of these measures should result in a palpable easing of the crisis atmosphere and a gradual return of investor-confidence by late next year. Averting the oncoming crisis would be a shallow victory, however, if another crisis were to rear its head after only a few years. Hence the long term must be secured, and this will require permanent institutional changes, of which the following, we think, are indispensable:

1. Downsizing the bureaucracy. Determine after some study exactly in which agencies and functions personnel can be spared and where they will continue to be essential. Under this rubric also falls the reform of the country's revenue agencies, which, we believe, calls for investing in entirely new organizations that can take the place of the current ones, as suggested in the original bill creating Internal Revenue Management Authority.

2. Privatization, the next wave. Still, as part of a drive to raise revenue (albeit a non-recurring source), the government should order a second wave of privatization involving the sale of all government holdings in the quasi-private corporate sector where there is no self-evident role for government.

3. Rationalization and reduction of tax incentives. While this measure is not expected to be a significant revenue source in the short run—a reform of the rules would take effect only prospectively by cutting off tax incentives to future investors—closing off this leakage in the revenue system is an effort worth pursuing.

4. Depoliticization of price-setting and regulation. Once the immediate crisis is past, all branches of government must renounce the politicization of prices and of the regulatory system. A significant part of the deficit-and-debt problem has stemmed from recent or past government intervention in the rate-setting process, mainly in response to popular pressure (e.g., power rates, light-rail transit fares, highway tolls). If the experience is not to be repeated, government must establish credible regulatory bodies by appointing competent and independent regulators. Courts, on the other hand, should enhance the regulatory environment by refraining from overruling competent regulatory authorities.

Tax revolt

5. Spending efficiency and the tax revolt. Beyond simple poor enforcement, another reason for low tax collection is the assessment of ordinary people that they are simply not getting their money's worth in terms of public services. Hence the increasingly pervasive view that, in the face of the systematic rape of the treasury, evading taxes may represent a more welfare-enhancing allocation of resources. Such a view, while individually rational, is of course unsustainable, since it flies from the fact that the people and the economy today require more, not less, social services and physical infrastructure.

What the tax revolt does underscore, however, is the need to refocus spending priorities to make them more rational, responsive, and untainted by corruption. Only in this way will future tax compliance be encouraged.

6. Rationalizing national-local government fiscal relations. Once other revenue measures are in place and the reform of the revenue agencies begin to pay off in terms of increased tax efforts, withholding part of the IRA can no longer be justified, and revenue-sharing will have to revert to the old 40 percent of revenues. This period of adjustment should last no more than three years.

Even before that period is reached, however, government may wish to reconsider the manner in which fiscal spending and taxing responsibilities have been divided between local and national government. Congress may wish to revise the amount and the manner in which the IRA is disbursed in order to encourage more local government effort in terms of both the responsibility for spending and raising local revenues. Part of the IRA may then be released conditional on the quality of spending or as matching grants to supplement new local revenues. A system may also be drawn up to permanently integrate the use of part of the congressional pork barrel funds into national or local priorities.

A question of leadership

If—a big small word—the Philippines does manage to avoid an economic collapse in the next two years, it will have been a first. For this to happen, however, will require unprecedented cooperation and open-mindedness among the country's political elite as well as a great deal of forbearance and capacity for sacrifice among the people.

In such circumstances, staving off a crisis becomes a classic "free-rider" problem: no one wants to be the bearer of bad news or the first to volunteer to sacrifice—the hope, of course, is that someone else will at sometime. Precisely to minimize the free-rider problem, we have sought to show that only a package of measures assigning a fair burden to all stands a fair chance of success.

All that remains now is the test to determine whether the nation's institutions and the quality of its leadership will suffice to save its people from an impending ordeal that has been largely predicted and is perhaps entirely unnecessary.

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Mining firm files protest vs move to stop Baguio water project

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the mining firm Benguet Corp. (BC) on Friday filed a protest before the Baguio Water District (BWD) to keep alive its bid to supply Baguio with water for the next 25 years.

BC asked the BWD board of directors to reconsider the decision of the water utility's prequalification, bids and awards committee (PBAC) rejecting BC's bid.

The firm paid a P7.3-million nonrefundable protest fee to the BWD.

"We spent P80 million in preparing for our solution (to Baguio's water crisis) and P7.3 million in filing our protest. We feel that in paying it we are demonstrating that we are sincere in our solution," Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president and chief executive officer of Benguet Corp., told reporters in a press conference on Friday.

BC, in a statement, listed the following as among the grounds for its protest:

* The methodology for evaluating the bids was changed after the BWD general manager replaced the PBAC chair "without justifiable cause" and after the BC was declared the only remaining qualified bidder.

"These circumstances gave rise to imputations that the project was being set up for a failure of bidding by the PBAC and the BWD management," the statement read.

* The BC plans to convert mined out open pits into water reservoirs that would collect rainwater from the Antamok River. The rainwater would be treated to make it safe. The BWD used "subjective and discretionary" standards in evaluating the plan and had no technical competence to make a decision on the proposal.

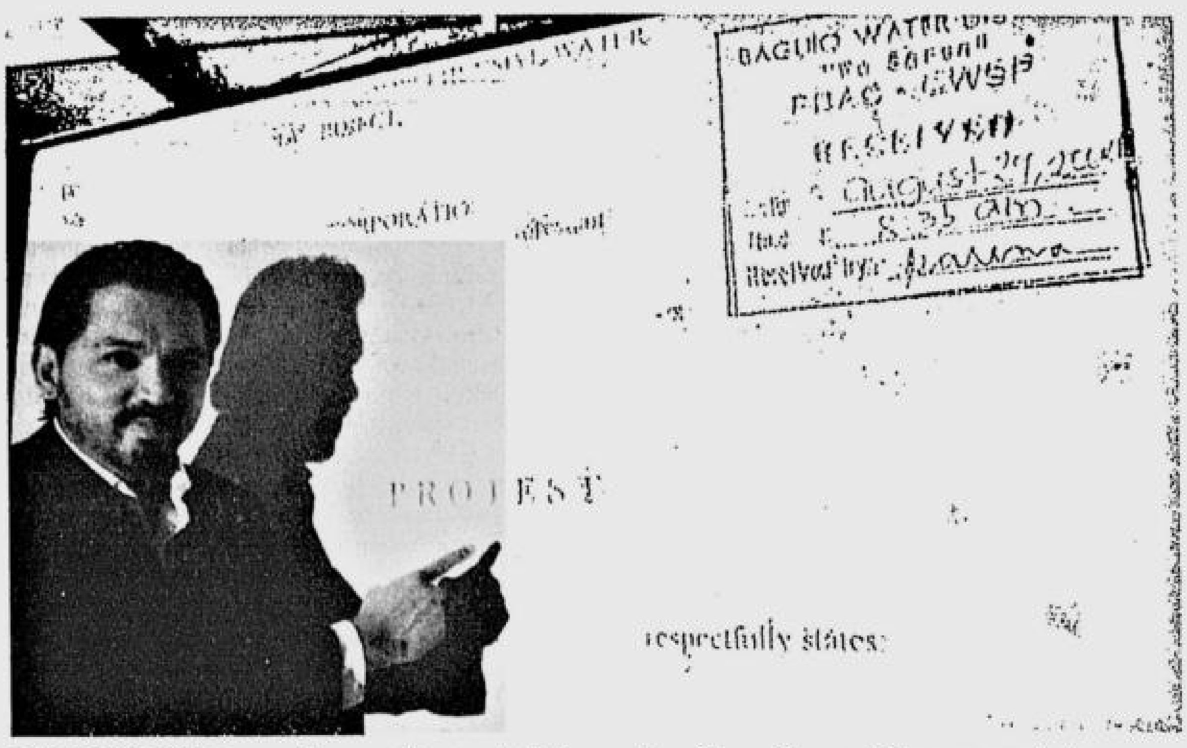
* BC has "tenurial rights" over the water sources and the project site.

BC asked the BWD board of directors to use the P7.3 million protest fee to hire independent, technical and legal consultants to evaluate the firm's bidding envelope B.

Earlier, the PBAC said it found flaws in the technical specifications of the BC bid.

Romualdez said they filed the protest because the PBAC "acted with grave abuse of discretion . . . manifest partiality, gross incompetence and in blatant disregard of the terms of reference and the Government Procurement Reform Act."

The BWD board has a week to act on the matter. If the board decides to sustain the PBAC decision, Romualdez said BC would sue the BWD before the regional trial court.



BENJAMIN Philip Romualdez, president and chief executive officer of Benguet Corp., presents to reporters in Baguio City the protest his firm filed against the Baguio Water District over a water system project for the water-starved city.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

"We spent 12 years studying the problem and we are willing to bring (this) to the Supreme Court if we want to. This is not for Benguet Corp. but for all Baguio residents," Romualdez said.

Romualdez said recent tests made by the National Science Research Institute showed their raw water samples passed safety standards.

He said BC is planning to line the open pit with dense polyurethane sheet before filling it with water.

Romualdez said the firm has access to 657 million cubic meters of water from 80 water sources.

The BWD earlier said the open pits could not hold the amount of water BC plans to supply. But Romualdez said BWD failed to take a closer look at what BC plans to do.

He said BC would reconstruct the pits, "scrape the bottom and fill whatever holes are there" to make them accommodate the amount of water that the BC plans to supply Baguio with.

He said enough state-of-the-art technology exists to treat raw water even from the mines.

He also said Benguet Corp. has been credited by the government for proposing the most socially-uplifting mine rehabilitation program once it converts its abandoned open pit mine into a water reservoir that benefits Itogon and Baguio City.

He said in a phone interview that the BWD obstruction to the bulk water project could be a sign of some officials trying to shield their inefficiencies from public scrutiny.

"It's just a question of a low-level bureaucrat trying to protect his job," he said.

The BC bid is critical in a P1 billion project funded by AusAid and the Local Water Utilities Administration to improve Baguio's water supply system.

Initially, the project called for drilling of additional wells but after years of unsuccessful drilling, the project proponents decided to turn to bulk water supply. *Frank Cimatu with reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Local execs warn of anarchy should IRA cut push through

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Local chief executives in Central Mindanao warned of a breakdown in the delivery of basic services to their constituents once their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) is cut.

The national government has admitted that the country is in fiscal crisis and that there should be a need to cut expenditures.

Among those proposed for trimming was the IRA, which local government units use to fund local projects.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez said slashing the IRA or suspending its release for 18 months is not only unconstitutional, but would also deprive the people of direly needed basic social services.

"Reducing the IRA or suspending its release for 18 months would result in anarchy. Local government units are so dependent on IRA for funds particularly in delivering social services. Cutting this off would result in the breakdown of services," Dominguez said.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes also expressed the same sentiment saying planned developments would be put to a halt.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, party-list Bayan Muna said slashing or abolishing the pork barrel might not really address the fiscal crisis.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said before moves to cut the pork barrel are finalized, a study should first be conducted if it would really help.

"Would this solve the fiscal crisis?" he said. What the government needs is to reexamine its priority so that it could determine what has been causing the fiscal crisis, he added.

"The bulk of the national budget goes to debt servicing. Pork barrel only makes up one-fourth of the annual national budget," Virador said.

He said repealing Presidential Decree 1177, a Marcos decree mandating the automatic appropriation of funds for debt servicing, would be more helpful.

"Once this is repealed, a debt cap would be put in place. We could already put a limit to debt servicing," Virador said.

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Almario said the government should adopt the gross receipt tax system to improve revenue collections. *Aquiles Zonio, Ferdinand Zuasola and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fear haunts Batangas reporters as slaying's mastermind roams

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—A day after police announced the arrest of the prime suspect in the killing of Batangas journalist Arnel Manalo, fear still haunts the media here.

"The mastermind is still around, roaming free," Arnel Ozaeta, president of the Batangas Newswriters Association, said.

Ozáeta said two Batangas journalists, who were with Manalo during that "unfortunate interview" with the suspected mastermind, were still in hiding for fear of their lives.

"Only after the arrest of the mastermind, probably that's the only time that peace would again reign among newsmen here. There's still unexplained jittery around," he said.

On Friday, the police presented Michael Garcia, a hired gun from Nueva Ecija, as the suspected gunman of Manalo. He was positively identified by Manalo's younger brother, Apollo, who was with the slain journalist when he was gunned down on Aug. 5 in Bauan, Batangas.

The police said the gunman was a bodyguard of Edilberto Mendoza, the former president of the Association of Barangay Chairmen in Bauan, and suspected mastermind in the killing.

Ozaeta said he believed in a report circulating among the media community that Manalo's murder was "hatched" inside the National Press Club Building in Manila. He, however, declined to elaborate.

But an INQUIRER source, who requested anonymity, said Mendoza waylaid the victim and the two other reporters in going to the NPC in Manila. "Arnel and company were fetched by a vehicle and was told that they would meet Mendoza in an undisclosed place for the scheduled interview," said the source.

The source said Manalo's murder was already planned even before the meeting.

"Because Arnel knew too much of Mendoza's shenanigans and past criminal deeds. They were too close to each other. Very close that there were times that Arnel also witnessed Mendoza's killer instinct. He just closed his eyes," the source said.

Manalo was a correspondent of the tabloid Bulgar and of radio station dzRH, and a columnist of the local weekly newspaper Dyario Veritas.

The informant said Mendoza could have set the interview inside the NPC premises as part of the plan to kill Manalo.

War on child abuse brought to villages

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has gone down to the barangay level to boost the campaign against child trafficking and exploitation, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said.

Soliman said the recruitment of children for employment and even for prostitution occur in the barangays.

"We are strengthening what we call the barangay council for the protection of children. At the level of the barangay, the village officials are supposed to be alert to the presence of people victimizing children," Soliman said during a recent visit here.

She said social welfare officials have been going around to drum up the campaign against child trafficking.

Soliman said local officials are also being briefed about laws covering exploitation of children.

She said the government would run after those exploiting children, not only the recruiters, but also operators of sex dens.

Soliman said people who avail of the services of children, either for labor or sexual activities, would also be prosecuted.

She said a high percentage of child trafficking is noted in areas frequented by tourists and impoverished communities.

"The tourist spots remain to be the top areas where children are most vulnerable to abuses. Most of the time, all the areas in the Philippines with high incidence of poverty are the same areas where children are vulnerable to child trafficking," Soliman said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ADOPTED SON CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sodusta, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, was named adopted son of Negros Occidental in rites at the provincial capitol Aug. 25. Reading the resolution adopting the general as the province's son was board member Francis Gerald Tuvilla as Gov. Isidro Zayco looks on.

Subic investor plans suit vs BIR chief

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Officials of the Subic Bay Motors Corp. said they would file charges against Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno for issued warrants of garnishment to the company and another investor for alleged non-payment of value-added and excise taxes.

Lawyer Estanislao Cesa Jr., SBMC counsel, said the company would also file a civil case against Parayno for the "serious and tremendous damage" he caused the company with the serving of a warrant garnishment to the depository banks of SBMC and the Asia International Auctioneers Inc. on Tuesday.

SBMC is an accredited Subic freeport investor engaged in the auction of imported motor vehicles while AIAI is a direct importer and seller of used vehicles and heavy equipment.

In an earlier statement, the BIR said the serving of the warrant was done to "satisfy the claim of the government in the form of unpaid taxes."

Cesa said records would show that the BIR has yet to issue a final assessment notice to SBMC for the alleged non-payment of taxes. He said the warrant was served despite the unresolved and pending protest filed by SBMC at the BIR.

"Parayno should not harass legitimate investors with his awesome powers because under the law, only Congress has the full authority to impose and create new taxes," Cesa said in the statement.

Cesa said the "drastic" move of Parayno to impose VAT and excise tax in this special economic zone "has sent (a) wrong signal to foreign investors."

"AIAI is a well respected investor in Subic freeport with foreign equities, and the company is protesting this allusion of being a delinquent taxpayer," said Cesa, also the lawyer of AIAI.

He said the AIAI has paid hundreds of millions of pesos to the government through customs tax and duties, land lease to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and has provided employment here.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Puffer fish kills 1

COTABATO CITY—One person died while 18 others were hospitalized after they feasted on a puffer fish in the coastal village of Magsaysay in Parang, Maguindanao on Aug. 23. Manny Bayeta, one of the survivors, identified the lone fatality as his nephew, Jefferson Mauring, 25. Bayeta said it was Mauring who cooked the fish, locally known as *butete*, which was caught by fisherman-friend Jimmy Arsenal. "We were surprised that this thing (mass poisoning) happened because we've been eating *butete* in the past," Bayeta said. It was learned that the *butete* feast was Mauring's first attempt to prepare the fish as viand for a mid-morning banquet among villagers. Dr. Ariadne Silongan, CRMC chief, advised everyone to refrain from eating *butete* to avoid poisoning. Puffer fish contains fatal toxins in its stomach and liver but it is a delicacy in coastal villages of the country. The fish is also popular among the Japanese, who serve it as a variation of sushi.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tribal leaders abducted

DAVAO CITY—Two tribal leaders were reported abducted by suspected members of the New People's Army in the hinterlands of Paquibato District here on Aug. 22. Task Force Davao commander Col. Eduardo del Rosario said members of the NPA's Pulang Bagani Command led by Leoncio Pitao alias Commander Parago were behind the abduction of Datu Manuel Butig and Datu Rogelio Manambay. But Del Rosario said Butig was released an hour later. He said members of the 73rd Infantry Battalion have been conducting rescue operations.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Koran reading fest

DAVAO CITY—Vice president Noli de Castro will lead a gathering of Muslim political and religious leaders, including members of the Islamic diplomatic community, in the celebration of the 30th National Koran Reading Competition today at the Davao Trade and Convention Center here. Thousands of Muslim leaders from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and other regions of Mindanao are expected to attend the event. The winners will participate in the International Koran Reading Competition in October in Kuala Lumpur.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kidnapper nabbed

BUTUAN CITY—The leader of a group, which abducted a Japanese businessman in Surigao del Sur last year, has been arrested, police said Friday. Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director, said Alberto Basao, alias Commander Buhawi, the founder of the Basao kidnap-for-ransom and robbery group, was arrested during a police raid on Thursday. Basao's group was the main suspect in the abduction of Hazumizu Hashiba, a native of Tokyo, in Lanuza town in January last year. Hashiba was later released when his family paid an undisclosed amount to the abductors. Olario said Basao's other activities earned him the tag most wanted man in Caraga. He carries a bounty of P600,000.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DILG against IRA cut

CITY OF CALAPAN—Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, concurrent chair of the National Peace and Order Council, said the Philippine National Police is cleaning its ranks to win the trust of the public. Reyes was the guest during the joint meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) and the Oriental Mindoro Peace and Order Council on Aug. 21 at the Provincial Capitol Square. Reyes stressed the need to strengthen the role of local governments "because they know the day-to-day problems of the people." He added: "Let resources flow down to them. Their IRA (internal revenue allotment) should not be reduced."

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Benguet threatens to close roads to protect forests

BAGUIO CITY—Benguet Gov. Borromeo Melchor said his administration was ready to close the province's border roads to Tinoc town in Ifugao, whose rice terraces and mossy forests are slowly being replaced by vegetable farmlands that were developed by "invading" northern Benguet farmers.

"There really is no excuse for the destruction of the forests. I am preparing to close the roads (that lead to Tinoc from Buguias town in Benguet), because that is the root of this crisis," Melchor told the INQUIRER on Thursday here.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development brought a team of reporters to Tinoc, an obscure hinterland municipality, in July to expose the phenomenon of centuries-old terraces being converted into modern farms that had gone unnoticed because of the town's relative inaccessibility.

The governor faulted the Department of Public Works and Highways for developing a major road network to Tinoc from Buguias, without consulting both the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources about the road's likely impact.

The forests of Barangay Tukucan and Sitio Munsoyusoy, which straddle Tinoc and Buguias, are within the protection of the Mt. Pulag preserve, said Augusto Lagon, Cordillera technical director for the DENR forest management service.

But the area's protected status did not discourage farmers from leasing or buying abandoned rice terraces there, said Alfredo Tucpi, a government engineer from Lamut, Ifugao.

Tucpi makes roads for Tinoc (population: 11,000) as part of the DSWD Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi) project.

Tinoc's rice terraces are smaller than the more popular rice terraces of Banaue and Hungduan towns, also in Ifugao.

Many of Tinoc's Kalanguya residents believed their terraces did not qualify to be inscribed as one of the World Heritage sites like the major terraces of Ifugao and Mt. Province.

"Because they are starved, the prospect of making their terraces economical made them agree to lease their properties out to Benguet farmers. They welcome them," said a former Kalanguya leader who is based here.

The chief livelihood in Tinoc, a fifth-class town, is agriculture but the farmers there rarely trade outside their town, according to the Bureau of Local Government Finance.

"Some Benguet farmers have settled there because neither Benguet nor Ifugao has decided where the boundary line should be drawn between Buguias and Tinoc. Many have married into Kalanguya families, which is why the deforestation has been tolerated," the Kalanguya source said.

It was modern farming that shocked many Kalanguya residents, said Melchor, a former Cordillera director of the National Irrigation Administration.

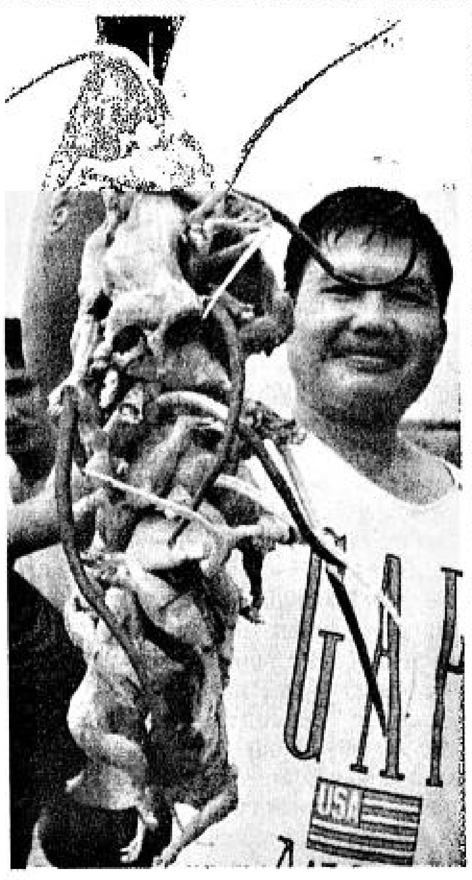
Age-old Ifugao farming techniques required farmers to preserve a watershed at the top of a mountain they are terracing for rice to preserve water, and to program irrigation, according to various historical and anthropological accounts.

But Benguet farms exploited all possible land area, according to the DA.

Benguet farmers sometimes cleared land through *kaingin* (slash-and-burn cultivation), because commercial farming required vast tracts of open land, said Elizabeth Verzola, outgoing DA Cordillera assistant director.

This explains why many *kaingin* operations tear into Tinoc's virgin mossy forests.

Melchor said he has scheduled an environment summit in September to discuss the province's ecological policies. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



DELICACY JOAN BONDOC

A resident of Mexico, Pampanga shows off several rats he caught in the town's ricefields. Rats are one of the town's delicacies and residents say they taste like chicken.

Kin of ship fire victim files P5M suit vs Aboitiz

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The wife and mother of a seaman from Murcia, Negros Occidental, who died on board the MV SuperFerry 14 when it caught fire on Feb. 27 filed on Friday a P5.5-million damage suit against Abotiz Transport Systems Corp. before the Regional Trial Court of Bacolod.

The suit was filed by Mary Jane Susana, wife, and Hortencia Susana, mother, of Eugene Susana, 29, who died after he was trapped inside the vessel that was gutted by fire.

They demanded the payment of P5 million for loss of his earning capacity, P500,000 in moral damages, exemplary damages as determined by the court, attorney's fees of P50,000 plus P5,000 per hearing as appearance fee and expenses of litigation of not less than P50,000.

They said Susana was at the prime of his life and had earned well from an international shipping firm.

At the time of his death, Susana had just finished his contract as a crew member on board MV Mol Kauri, an international ocean-going vessel represented in the Philippines by Leones Navigation Co. Inc., where he was paid $1,170 a month.

"Considering his age and good physical condition at the time he died, Mr. Susana could have easily spent 20 more years as [a] seafarer before he [retired from] his career," said the petition for damages.

MV SuperFerry 14 had sailed from Manila and was headed for Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro when an explosion and an ensuing fire occurred, trapping many passengers inside. Of the over 800 passengers, 116 died.

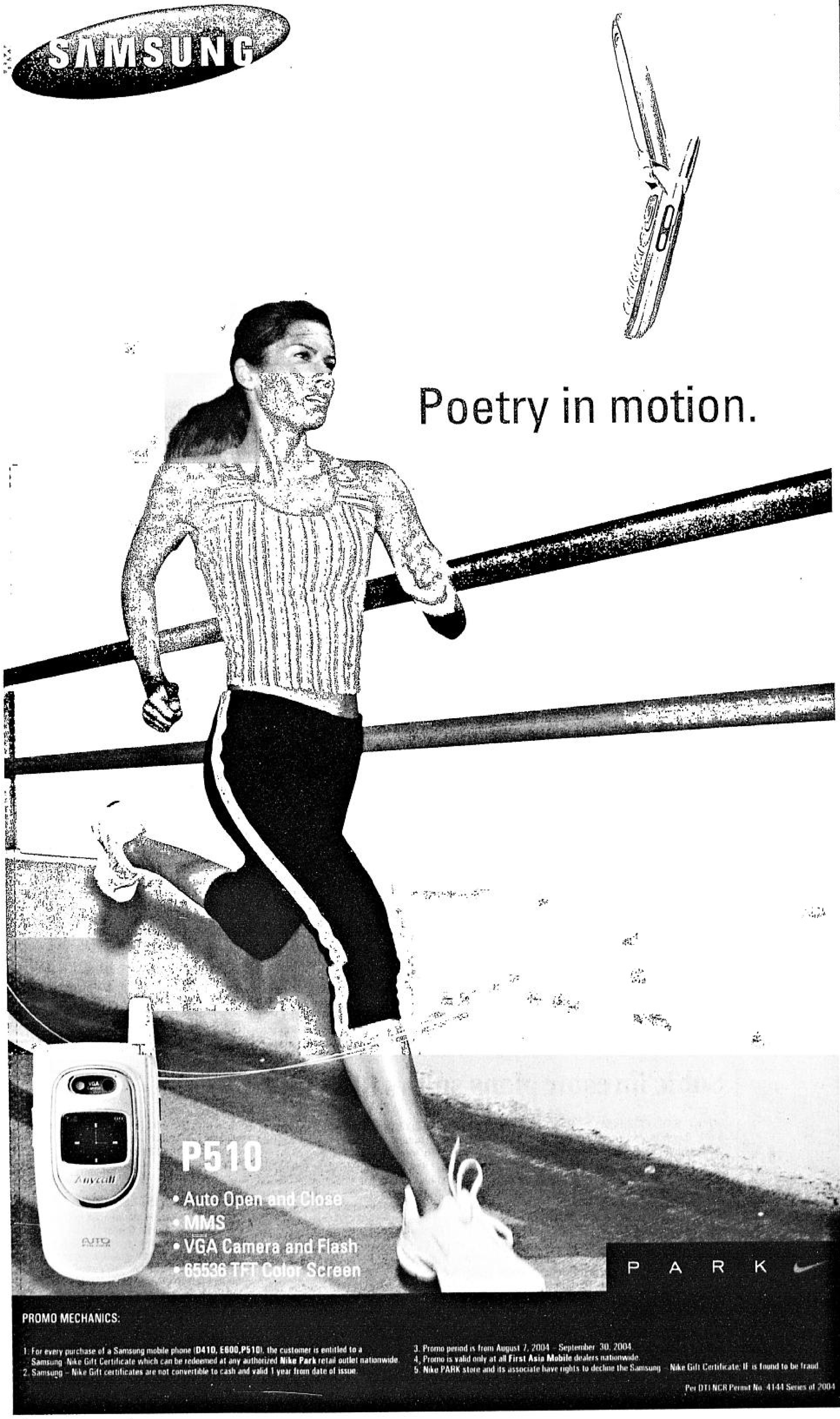
The Susanas alleged that Eugene died because Aboitiz failed to observe extraordinary due diligence, making it liable for damages.

Gina Virtousio, spokesperson for WG&A of Aboitiz Transport, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that they would let judicial process take its course.

She said the damage suit filed by the Susanas was an "isolated case" since some 90 percent of the families of those who died had claimed their insurance benefits.

Virtousio said they were still waiting for the results of the special marine board inquiry that would determine what caused the fire on SuperFerry 14.

She said Aboitiz Transport has been cooperating with the government and will respect its findings.



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Cebu lawyers set protest vs hike in court fees

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Close to 1,000 lawyers here urged the Supreme Court to immediately suspend and review the newly mandated increase in legal fees.

The lawyers, in a manifesto, criticized the High Tribunal's imposition of new legal fees as "too drastic and utterly oppressive."

They said it was also in "disharmony with the prevailing economic and social conditions in the country" and "will certainly bring adverse effects to the rights of litigants especially among the marginal ones and their lawyer advocates in the pursuit of justice."

The new schedule of fees, they said, among others raised to P2,000 the marriage license fee that used to only cost P300. The fee for appeal for remedies rose from P500 to P3,500; naturalization of citizenship—from P2,000 to P10,000; and annulment or legal separation—from P200 to 3,000.

Wearing black arm bands, officials of various lawyers' groups in Cebu called a press conference to announce the "peaceful demonstration" that they will stage on Monday in front of the Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan Justice Hall at the Cebu Capitol grounds here.

Lawyer Democrito Barcenas, IBP-Cebu City chapter president, said the demonstration would be held right after the flag ceremony.

Speakers from different lawyers' organization would be asked to give their sentiments and opposition to the new schedule of legal fees.

A billboard will also be placed at the wall of the Hall of Justice Building where lawyers opposed to the fees increase can affix their signatures.

The lawyers also requested the public and the business sector to join the mass action to convey a message to the Supreme Court that many are opposed to the imposition of the new fees.

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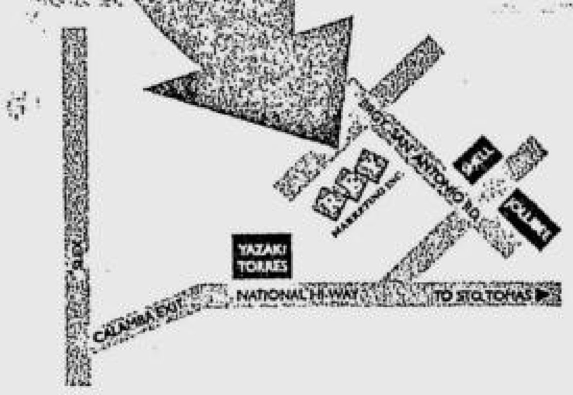

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Touring the Mindanao soul landscape

By Gutierrez Mangansakan II
Contributor

THE TOUR package said a whole month. No guarantee that one would see the usual array of postcard-pretty attractions on the island, especially at a time when tourists try to avoid the monsoon rains lest they literally dampen the holiday cheers.

The negative headlines about the island made the tour even harder to sell.

But last month, a dozen Filipino-American artists trooped to Mindanao for a different kind of tourism that became a way of discovering and connecting to the rich cultural heritage of their birth or ancestry.

Carlo Ebeo, Philippine tribal tour manager, explained that the concept was to educate participants on the many indigenous art forms in Mindanao.

"The intention is not only to learn the arts. It is important to immerse in the various communities to know how these people live and gain a deeper understanding of their culture," Ebeo said.

Culture study

First stop was the Mindanao State University in Marawi City. For nine days, the participants attended an intensive arts laboratory consisting of history lessons, master classes on traditional dance and music, as well as other artistic expressions of the Maguindanaon, Maranao, Tausug and Sama communities.

They then traveled to Bukidnon, the Davao provinces, Compostela Valley, South Cotabato, North Cotabato and Maguindanao, where the true learning experience beyond classroom walls began.

"Just thinking about how vast our culture is puts me in a state of awe," said Charisse Aquino, whose family moved to the United States when she was only 10 years old.

Aquino experienced one of her most unforgettable moments in the tour in Kapalong, Davao del Norte, where she took part in a ritual being performed by five tribes in the area belonging to an organization called the Amado—Ata Manobo, Mandaya, Dibabawun and Omyumnun—whose leaders were negotiating ancestral domain claims.

"We had to sacrifice a pig for offering at three in the morning. The ritualist danced and tranced around the pig, and started doing mock stabs with his spear," Aquino recounted.

"Then he gave the spear to me and gave a signal to stab the pig. At that moment, I felt all this energy rush through me like the energy of the universe was there to guide me. I stabbed the pig. He asked a few men to do it too but it took a long time to kill the pig."

Later, the ritualist explained that the organization was strong as symbolized by the pig which was hard to kill.

The Connection

After the event, Aquino realized that "all these people are so connected to the earth and to themselves, and I, like so many others, lost that connection a long time ago."

At 24, she said it was still not too late to look back.

"There is more to just learning the culture of the people of Mindanao," Ebeo insisted. "We have funded the building of healing huts, restoration of tribal houses, and even the painting of school theaters."

TRIBAL tour participants in Marawi City (above). A Talaandag elder performs a ritual (below, right)
CHARISSE AQUINO/CONTRIBUTOR

Now on its third year, the tribal tour was designed by Kularts Inc., a Bay Area community-based arts organization whose mission is to inform and expand the understanding of indigenous culture.

Alleluia Panis, Kularts artistic director, stressed that it was equally important for the culture of the people to be faithfully and properly represented.

She noted that many Filipino-Americans in California were learning to play the *kulintang*. She warned that these enthusiasts should be careful, especially in musical improvisation, because of the danger of destroying traditional musical forms.

Beyond the songs

In Pagalungan, Maguindanao, Panis found the answers to her questions when she noticed old women singing as they played the *kulintang*. "You can't just improvise without understanding these songs. You might cut in the middle of a phrase or word and that would be disastrous."

While on a boat ride in Lake Sebu, the tour participants listened intently to the songs of two T'boli singers, one of them an epic chanter.

"How can someone sing for hours and still remember what they are supposed to sing?" Aquino asked herself. "Only a few people can sing it. They are not being passed down because the younger generation does not want to learn it, they want their MTV," she said.

But judging a dozen young Filipino-Americans who temporarily left their comfortable spaces to discover their cultural identities, Ebeo is optimistic that the next tribal tour will bear more fruit.

"The haunting melodies of the island will reverberate in their souls and call them back again here, and there will be more of them," he said.

White sands but empty nests in Pitogo

By Jennifer L. Ramos
Contributor

THERE is more to the idyllic island of Panikian in Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur, than white sands and azure waters. It is, above all, the nesting ground of endangered marine turtles or *pawikan*. But where are the eggs?

When you investigate the grassy line along the shore, where the *pawikan* usually nests, you'll see endless sand craters—tell-tale signs of poaching.

We first set foot on the island in December 2003. I asked Gil Racho, head of the municipal agriculture office (MAO), if I could at least see one egg. His casual reply: "Oh no, they were already collected."

"If you want to see *pawikan* eggs, you have to spend the night on the island and see the *pawikan* lay eggs before the poachers collect them in the morning," he said, matter-of-factly.

It was obvious: egg collection is unregulated in Panikian. The only consolation is that reports of *pawikan* slaughter are now rare, although residents say that at one time, they saw more than 10 *pawikan* shells stacked on the island.

Sanctuary declaration

So, why is it unregulated? The reason: Panikian has not been declared a marine sanctuary.

Roque Langgam of the MAO said the surrounding waters is a marine and fish sanctuary but not the island.

A staff member of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Alex Amorganda, said that in 2000, then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles initiated and funded the Pawikan Conservation Center on the island, which saved lots of turtles.

LAW STUDENTS of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center-Mindanao meet a giant marine turtle (*pawikan*) in Panikian Island, Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur, during one of their exposure trips under the Alternative Law Groups Summer Internship Program in Northern Mindanao. RON ASIGNACION/ CONTRIBUTOR

However, the center stopped operations after Cerilles' term.

Amorganda recalls that activities on the island was regularly monitored then. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and municipal government were involved in conservation efforts, and a rest house and multipurpose center were put up.

That year, a total of 34,653 eggs were laid. In June alone, 103 *pawikan* nested.

According to Mario Ranulo of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), a total of 15,086 hatchlings were released in the same year.

When the center stopped operations, the infrastructure facilities on the island were abandoned. Some of them were left unfinished.

The local government, whose role at that time was mainly to provide staff, did not continue where the DENR had left.

Langgam admitted that the newly elected mayor does not have a management plan for Panikian. His office has also not come up with a management plan or even a recommendation. He said they were constrained by lack of funds.

The Penro has initiated a revival of the *pawikan* conservation project and drafted a memorandum of agreement among the provincial government, the municipal government, the DENR and the Environment Legal Assistance Center. But until now, the agreement has not been signed.

Residents of Barangay Lower Panikian, the village nearest the island, and members of D'Lovers, a people's organization, are preparing a barangay ordinance establishing a *pawikan* sanctuary. They have expressed their desire to protect Panikian through community-based management, but they were concerned that all their efforts would be wasted if the island's owner comes forward to claim it.

Land claim

A document from the Penro certifies the four-hectare island as alienable and disposable, but it is being claimed by Vicente Cerilles, the congressman's father.

The document further stated that it was in cognizance of such claim that a MOA was entered into between the DENR and "the land owner-/claimant."

DENR Administrative Order 2000-83, which provides guidelines for the management and development of small islands, including coastal areas, states that islands and islets with areas of less than 500 hectares shall be classified as strict conservation areas. As such, they shall not be alienated nor disposed of for any purpose.

The order was issued by then Secretary Cerilles himself.

Cerilles said he was upset that the DENR did not follow the MOA that was signed when he was still DENR head. But he gave assurance that he would resume his support to the conservation efforts.

THE AUTHOR, an environment lawyer, is a former area manager of the Environment Legal Assistance in Mindanao. She is now the legal officer of Sarangani

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Lucena leads way in deployment of environmental police

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Armed with citation tickets and a fervent spirit, a group of volunteers regularly patrols this city to remind litterbugs of environmental laws that they are legally obliged to obey.

The "environmental police," who wear green vests marked with "Task Force 9003" at the back, serve as the implementing arm of the City Solid Waste Management Board as mandated under RA 9003 (or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act).

Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said the task force was formed three months ago because of the grave threat posed to public health by the increasing volume of garbage.

"Just like any regular police force, its members can issue citation tickets and apprehend anyone in the streets found violating environmental laws," Talaga said.

According to Danilo Cada, task force chair and head of the city's General Service Office, Lucena's garbage is estimated to reach around 55 tons a day. It is hauled by at least 10 trucks to a five-hectare open dump in Barangay Kanlurang Mayao.

Radical but legal

Cada said that after the enactment of RA 9003, a number of waste management programs and plans were instituted.

"But sad to admit, the mindset of the people is still this: that the maintenance of community cleanliness is solely the government's task," Cada said.

"So we had to resort to something radical but still within the legal framework. The result is TF 9003. Its legal foundation is anchored on the past ordinances of the city and RA 9003," he said.

Among the violations are littering, illegal disposal of garbage, and failure to clean one's own surroundings.

"Those in the habit of throwing cigarette butts anywhere should be wary," Cada said.

Violators are ordered to appear at the City Hall within 72 hours after the citation or face being charged in court.

They have to pay a fine of P500 for the first offense, and up to P5,000 for the fourth. But they may choose to perform several hours of community service instead.

P500 a month

At present, TF 9003 has at least 20 volunteers who regularly report for duty.

The recommendation of the barangay captain is needed for one to become a member.

Applicants also have to undergo a series of seminars and lectures on environmental laws and on how to "politely" carry out their task.

They are provided manuals on the proper apprehension of violators, "to avoid trouble," Cada said.

In a month, each member of the task force receives P500 as honorarium and 25 percent of the total fines that he generates.

The local government is still looking for funds to support the program, Cada said.

"But the spirit of volunteerism is quite encouraging. The members of the task force regularly report for duty," Ruben Jabrica, head of the environmental police, told the INQUIRER.

The members of TF 9003 work in their free time and are not among the regular 8 a.m.-5 p.m. government employees.

They patrol the streets on a "buddy-buddy" system—meaning, Cada said, "the other will act as witness to the apprehension."

They help the more than 40 regular government garbage collectors and street sweepers in the daily task of cleaning the city.

141 and counting

As of Aug. 20, Lucena's environmental police have arrested 141 violators—99 owners of business establishments, 41 others, and one minor.

Of the total, 84 allegedly failed to maintain cleanliness within a five-meter radius of their dwellings; 34 were litterbugs; and 23 disposed of waste illegally.

RP jins blow medal hopes ...

From page A1

in pain. He tried to continue fighting, but the referee stopped the fight with 1:37 left in the round.

He was taken out in a stretcher to the cheers of a capacity crowd of 6,000 at the Pavilion and was taken straight to the hospital for what was believed to be a fracture in the left leg.

Earlier, Geisler was relegated to the repechage round when he lost to Turkey's Bahri Tanrikulu in the first round on superiority after the match ended in a 9-all tie.

Rivero, at 16 the youngest Olympian in the Philippine team, went down, 3-2, to Elisavet Mystakiduo in the semi-finals of the women's under 67 kilogram category. Then she lost her chance for a bronze when she was outclassed by South Korea's Kyung Sun, 6-2.

After two quick victories in the first two rounds Saturday, Rivero had put the Philippines on the verge of the medal tally with a very realistic chance for either a silver or a gold.

Geisler dropped his first round match after the referee declared his opponent, Turkey"s Bahri Tanrikulu, winner on superiority after their match ended in a 9-all tie.

Not enough

"We tried our best," taekwondo coach Jesus "Jobet" Morales said. "But it seems our best was not enough."

The Greek girl did not have enough either to score a convincing win.

She scored on hits that were not clear and on hits that should have been counted for Rivero, Morales lamented.

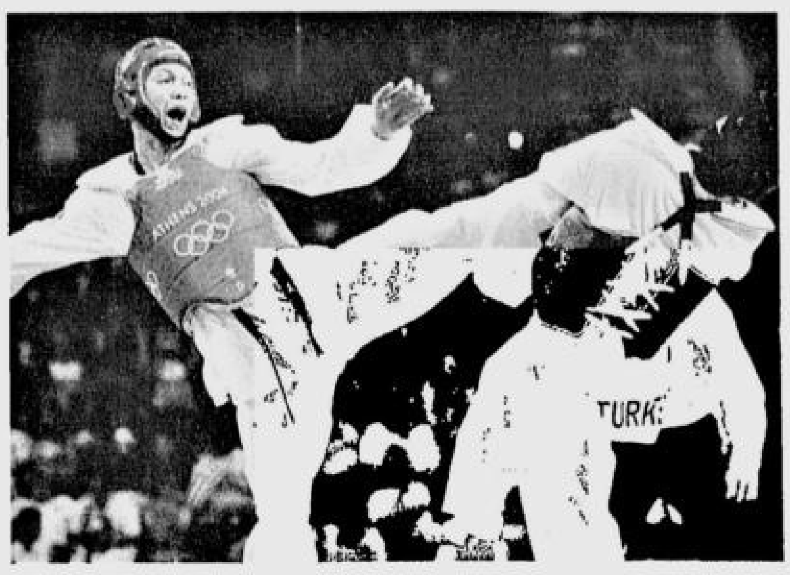
"I think the Greeks were hungry for a medal," he said, noting that another local taekwondo jin had lost in the men's under 57 two days earlier.

While Rivero did not show the fire and the fight that netted her two victories earlier in the day, Mystakiduo didn't do much either to prove she deserved her victory.

She scored the first two points, both of which hardly grazed Rivero's armor. And the fourth point was counted in the Greek girl's favor instead of for Rivero.

Earlier in the day, Rivero beat two opponents in the first two rounds in contrasting fashions. She needed also a favorable decision from the referee to beat Vanina Sanchez Beron after the match ended in a 10-10 tie.

Then she found her stride with a second round points victory over the Netherlands' Charmie Sobers, 10-4



THE PHILIPPINES' Geisler scores against Turkey's Tanrikulu in the men's under 80-kg at taekwondo on Saturday. He lost. AP

A lift

Rivero's conqueror, getting a lift from a capacity crowd at the Pavilion, earlier advanced with points victories over Guatemala's Heidy Juarez in the second round and New Zealand's Verina Wihongi in the first round.

Geisler fought back from an early deficit and tied the match at 9-all going into the final bell ending the fight, only to lose out on the referee's verdict, who ruled the Turk the winner by superiority.

The Turk overcame two penalty points in the third and final round to advance to the next round.

The 25-year-old Geisler's hopes for a bronze medal remained alive when Tanrikulu later beat his next opponent, Tunisia's Hickem Hamdouni, 6-4.

Under the rules, all the entries beaten by the two finalists will fight it out in the repechage round for the bronze medal.

Close fight

Rivero had more than bronze in mind when she overcame a close first fight to dominate her opponent in the second round.

"The girl has what it takes to win," commented Robert Aventajado, president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association. "*Palaban talaga*. She can go all the way."

Rivero grew more confident with each of the six rounds she fought in the morning sessions.

In her first fight with Sanchez Beron, Rivero was behind 1-3 and 2-4 in the first round. And she fell back even further when the referee deducted a point from her at the start of the second round for incurring two warnings.

Always on the attack, Rivero gamely fought on, scoring with an axe kick and later swapping points at the end of the second round, which ended with the taller Beron still ahead at 7-6.

Penalty point

It was Beron's turn to incur a penalty point (gam-jeom) at the start of the third and final round and the score seesawed from there with the taller Argentinian always scoring first but with the Filipina constantly on the attack.

It was with 28 seconds left in the fight that Rivero scored with an axe kick to tie the score at 10-10. The round ended with the two swapping hits and the score deadlocked at 11.

Starting each round with a blood-curdling scream, Rivero got the nod of referee Chakir Chelbat of Sweden and won the fight by superiority. (If the score is tied after three rounds, the referee decides the outcome of the match and gives the fight to the superior fighter).

It took the referee more than a minute of consultations with the judges and computations before rendering a verdict.

But in the second fight, the high school junior needed no referee to decide who was superior. She did it herself against Sobers, the Dutch woman who was almost twice her age.

Sobers, 31, had advanced to the second round with a 7-6 victory over Sarah Bainbridge of Great Britain.

Fighting with bruise

Nursing a bruise in the left thigh sustained in her first fight, Rivero spent most of the first round sizing up Sobers, who surprised the Filipina toward the end of the round with an attack right after the break.

The sneak attack gave the Dutchwoman a 2-1 lead at the end of the round.

But in the second round, Rivero asserted herself, tying the score with a right kick and finally emerging with a 3-2 lead after an exchange. Again the Dutch tried her surprise attack at the break midway in the second round, but Rivero knew what she was up to.

When Sobers sprang the surprise, the Filipina was waiting for her and beat her to the kick, 4-2. Rivero ended with a last-second kick that gave her a 6-2 lead.

It was all Rivero in the third round, although she did allow her opponent to score occasionally and even incurring a one-point penalty for repeated warnings.

The taller Geisler fell far behind Tanrikulu in their first round match.

Crouching like a tiger on a hunt, the Turk scored the first point with an emphatic kick to Geisler's face, which was worth two points. Each time Geisler attacked, the Turk frustrated him with a counter kick.

The tactic gave Tanrikulu a 4-0 lead in the first round, which ended with the 6-foot-1 Filipino scoring his first point for a 1-4 deficit.

The Turk again dominated the second round to take a 7-2 lead, but in the third round, the Filipino bounced back, unleashing his own kick to the face that brought him close at 5-7.

Disputed point

The Filipino's two-point kick was contested by the Turkish coach and it took a huddle by the judges and the referee to confirm the score.

Geisler then pressed the attack. The Filipino actually tied the match with 1:13 left in the round at 7-all and the Turk was deducted a point for repeated warnings.

A few exchanges later, the Turk got ahead, 10-9, in the dying seconds but had another penalty point deducted. The match ended at 9-all with referee Stephen Dring of the United States taking no time to declare the Turk the winner.

Geisler was still in high spirits as he awaited the outcome of the later matches, which would determine if he still gets a second chance at a medal.

After the fight, Geisler said he could not remember the two-point kick that triggered his courageous comeback in the third round.

"He fought gallantly," said Morales. "He lost on the breaks."

There's now an ombudsman for green plaints

From page A1

1971, heads the Environmental Team of Investigators and Prosecutors that Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo has formed to make sure that responsibility is pinpointed and punishment is imposed.

But the team—composed of 17 lawyers from different regions—is not solely punitive. Its existence may also prove to be preventive: If values formation and consciousness-raising do not work among the incorrigibles, perhaps sowing fear will.

There is a need for a post like Candelaria's even if, according to noted environmental lawyer and professor Antonio Oposa, the Philippines has "the most sophisticated set of environmental laws in the whole of Asia."

It's time to stop putting the blame on God or *force majeure*. Members of the species homo sapiens are guilty of playing a part in so-called natural calamities.

Their big and small sins of omission and commission are behind great disasters waiting to happen. Their kind has to be punished or prevented from wreaking more havoc.

Who caused those trees to be cut? Who is the mayor who looks the other way while buildings are being erected on *esteros?* Who is allowing the proliferation of fish pens and cages that lead to fish kills? Is the barangay chair in cahoots with those engaging in dynamite fishing?

Team's tasks

With the office of the environmental ombudsman in place, the Environmental Team can now go to work. Its tasks:

- To evaluate formal complaints relating to violation of environmental laws.
- To conduct preliminary investigation and/or administrative adjudication on these complaints, or endorse them to the appropriate office.
- With prior leave of the Ombudsman or his deputy, and subject to the control and supervision of the appropriate authority, to prosecute complaints against public officials and employees for failure to properly implement or enforce environmental laws.
- To submit a monthly report to the Tanodbayan, with copies furnished to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) on complaints and cases filed.
- To monitor the implementation of criminal and administrative sanctions and to coordinate with law enforcement agencies for assistance.

The set-up is the fruit of an earlier memorandum of agreement signed by the Office of the Ombudsman and the 50,000-strong IBP under Jose Anselmo I. Cadiz, as witnessed by Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun and Oposa, who heads the IBP's National Environment Action Team.

Under the agreement, the IBP may serve as a conduit for citizens' complaints and receive reports on violations of environmental laws. IBP lawyers may also serve, *pro bono*, as special counsels.

Accountability

"This is like unsheathing the sword," Oposa said. "This is a new dimension of public accountability. There are about 140 laws related to the environment, and if even only one percent could be enforced, we'd be well on the way."

Oposa, who was recently asked to review the proposed environmental law of Afghanistan, is behind the 800-page "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment," a source book for lawyers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently reprinted the book, copyright free, and distributed it to lawyers.

The idea of an environmental ombudsman has been floated in international circles for some time. A leading voice in environmental law, Ben Boer of the University of New South Wales, has discussed it. It was raised at the Southeast Asian Chief Justices symposium in 1999.

Now the Philippines has such an office in place, at the Ombudsman Building on Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Writers' course

THE KONRAD Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University is offering fellowships to journalists admitted to the six-week online course on Editorial and Opinion Writing from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25.

Luis V. Teodoro, a journalist and former dean of the College of Mass Communication at the University of the Philippines, will teach the course.

Only 15 participants will be admitted to the course. Professional journalists who wish to avail of the fellowships must file their applications by Sept. 6. Forms may be downloaded from http://cfj.ateneo.edu or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph and submitted by fax at 926-3254. CFJ may be contacted by phone at 926-3253 or 426-6001, local 5215.

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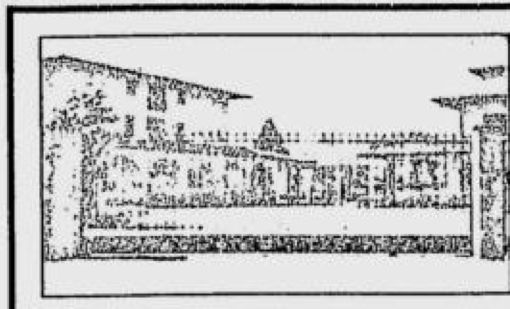

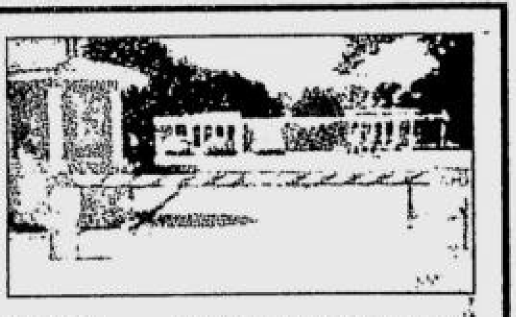

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GMA blows top again in Pulong Bayan

From page A1

interest in one of the hottest issues hogging the headlines—rising oil prices and electricity rates.

Nearly two hours into the weekly town-hall type of meeting held this time at the Pandacan oil depot, Ms Arroyo took everyone by surprise when she snapped at the crowd about the loud buzz and bluntly suggested that everyone pack up.

"I think *umiingay na yung kapaligiran natin* (it's getting noisy here)," she said, looking peeved. "So *kung ang* audience *ay hindi na nakikinig, pati yung* TV audience *natin hindi na rin siguro nakikinig* (if the audience is not listening, then TV viewers are probably not listening, too)."

This gave the moderator, comedienne Giselle Sanchez, the opportunity to deliver a brief lecture to the "class."

"You heard that," said Sanchez, whom Ms Arroyo had earlier requested to serve as more than a moderator by pinch-hitting for Vice President Noli de Castro, who was in Davao City.

"Let's stop talking among ourselves because this topic is for the country," Sanchez told the audience. "If all of us will have their own conversation, we will forever be complaining to the government. We are here because we want the government's help, and it is giving us information. Right?"

The assembly snapped to attention, but after the President responded briefly to a couple of questions and then explained her forthcoming trip to China, it was not too long before the affair wound up.

The Pulong Bayan had been widely anticipated because the subject was an issue relevant to all households nationwide. ***(See related story in Metro, page A23.)***

But the President and members of her Cabinet merely reiterated what they had discussed in past fora, mainly the government's helplessness vis-à-vis the fluctuations in the world crude oil prices.

Also, the audience appeared bored as Cabinet officials droned on about the government's achievements in energy self-sufficiency and its plan to privatize the National Power Corp.

Ms Arroyo said her vision was to reform the power industry in a manner similar to the transformation of the former telecommunications monopoly into the most profitable and highly competitive sector in the country.

"We used to have high phone bills and expensive cell phones. Now, even ordinary people have cell phones. That is what we want to happen in the power industry," she said.

Employers propose entry wage of ₱100

EMPLOYERS want lower hiring rates for unskilled workers.

This was the sentiment of Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Rene Soriano who told reporters it was time the government reviewed a law which mandates that apprentices get the minimum wage.

Soriano floated the figure of P100 as an "entry wage," which is less than half of the basic pay in Metro Manila of P250 or P300 if the Emergency Cost of Living Allowance or Ecola is included.

This suggestion came as the Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday pressed for a P125-across-the-board increase all over the country by holding a noise barrage in Manila as part of a series of protest actions.

The militant group is pushing for the increase because of the continuing rise in the prices of oil and liquefied petroleum gas or LPG.

Yesterday, Ecop press relations officer Robert Ella said their group would soon propose an adjustment of the minimum wage but refused to disclose figures.

He maintained that the prevailing P250 minimum wage could become the "entry wage" and that the minimum wage could be higher, depending on the skills of the workers.

This would also depend on their proposal to create task forces for the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council which would be manned by representatives from labor, government and employers, he added.

The idea for the task forces—meant to address the "endless policy debates on minimum wage-fixing and labor flexibility"—was developed during the Employers' Summit on Employment and Industrial Relations organized by Ecop. *Martin P. Marfil*

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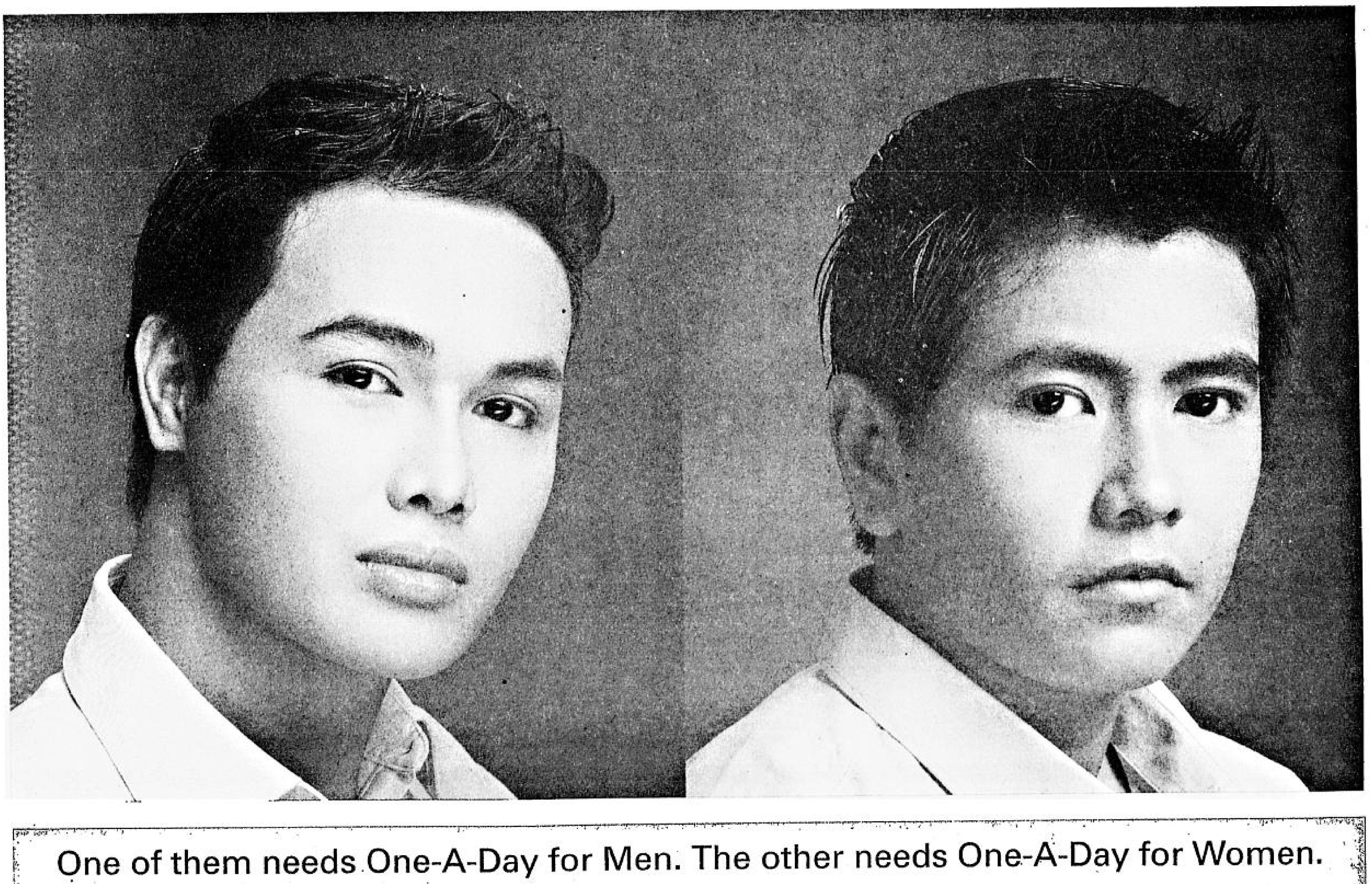
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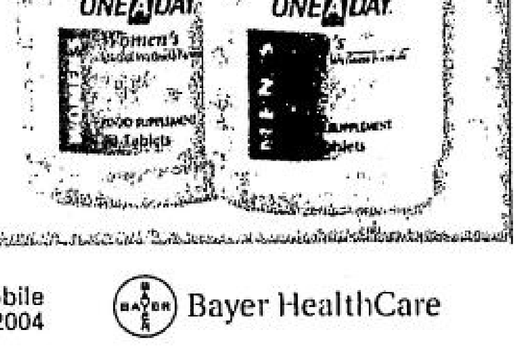

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QC official denies graft charges

By Nelson F. Flores

THE QUEZON City treasurer has denied reports of alleged anomalous multi-million peso tax holidays involving him and his men.

Treasurer Victor Endriga claimed that there are no anomalies or tax holidays in the city as he denied the graft charges filed against him.

He said the charges filed in the Office of the Ombudsman were in retaliation for his decision to transfer the complainant, Jimmy Ramos, to another office, following numerous complaints allegedly made against him by the public.

Ramos, in an earlier interview, said Endriga and his men violated Section 3 of Republic Act 3019 (the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) when they absolved two business firms from paying their combined tax liabilities amounting to P16.5 million.

He said Our Lord's Grace Montessori School and Colleges (OLGMSC) along Commonwealth Avenue and KSJ International Incorporated along K-1 Street in Kamuning were cleared from any tax liability after only paying a total of P956,000 to the city government.

Endriga said the OLGMSC and KSJ International were not given any tax holidays, nor was there any in Quezon City.

He stressed that being a nonprofit educational institution, the OLGMSC was exempted from paying business taxes as provided for in Article 283 of the Local Government Code.

Endriga added that the payment it made was merely "on a voluntary basis."

"It is clear that the charges have no basis and were only intended to hamper my work as a tax collector," he said.

Apart from Endriga, the other respondents were Michael Manalang, Eduardo Evangelista, Antonio Saur and Edgar Villanueva.

French in the science schoolroom

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE TEACHER brings out a cassette player and voices speaking in French, engaged in animated conversation, fill the air. The students listen intently, foreheads creased, trying to comprehend every new word.

Pointing to makeshift visual aids on the blackboard, the teacher introduces the day's topic. After a few explanations and examples, she asks if the students understand the new lesson. A smattering of "ouis" (yes) echo throughout the room, with a few brave souls raising their hand for a question or two.

For an hour every Friday, this is the scenario in Xyrza Asido's French class at the Makati Science High School, one of three public high schools in the country where an experimental French language program has been conducted since 1998.

Asido, then a history teacher at Makati Science, was among 15 Filipino teachers chosen by the Department of Education and the French Embassy to undergo a two-year intensive training of the French language.

"Most of the teachers chosen for the program were English language teachers. I was picked because I graduated with a degree in foreign service," Asido said, adding that the training included a month's stay in Paris, France for a cultural immersion activity.

While Asido and her other colleagues were trying to master the language, French teachers from the Alliance Francaise de Manille initiated the first French classes in Makati Science, Manila Science High School and Quezon City Science High School.

Asido said the French teachers experienced initial obstacles with their students which the Filipino teachers also experienced when they took over the classes in 2001.

"Most of the students ask me, why French? They think it's an elitist language," Asido said, adding that the students said they were initially "terrified" by their French teachers who refused to translate and tolerate any other language in their classrooms.

The students also had a hard time with the pronunciation and conjugation. Some had complained that learning the language was an additional burden to their already heavy science high school curriculum.

"But most of them were receptive and soon learned to love the language," Asido said.

As a result, Alliance reported that Makati Science was "undoubtedly the school where the experience of teaching French had been the most successful."

French teacher Janine Audrain said in her report: "After one year, Makati students were able to introduce themselves, talk about their own environment in French. They know how to read time and can discuss TV programs. They also know how to count and can conjugate verbs in the present form."

Because learning it was required for all third and fourth year students, Audrain said "tremendous improvement was made in oral communication and general understanding of the language."

"Making the subject compulsory helped. Most of the students, already used to excelling, tried their best to master the basics," Asido said.

Cherry Anne Ubalde, a senior, said learning the language would be an advantage "when we take language electives in college," adding that it was an honor for public school students like them to be ahead of many of their private school counterparts who do not take up French in school.

Jan Michael Ong, who recently joined a contest for French speakers in Singapore said that he can now tell people that he is multilingual "with pride."

"It would also be a plus for some of us who plan to go abroad for further studies or work," said Jay Danas. "Though learning to speak it is difficult, it would help us understand the culture of many French-speaking countries more."

Classmate Mellona Fortuna Rubino said they try to speak outside the classroom, when they are out on a lark, with pleasant, if not amusing results.

Asido, however, laments that only the basics could be taught because they only have an hour each week for the subject.

She said the subject was removed from the third year curriculum to give way to an environmental science subject.

"If only the students had more time for this beautiful language, it would have been more fruitful," she said. "I always tell them how lucky they are to be able to learn French, an opportunity not given to every student, even those in more prestigious schools."

TEACHER Xyrza Asido with Makati Science High School students: The joy of learning. ROMY HOMILLADA

GMA bats for alternative energy

By Leila B. Salaverria

ENERGY-RELATED matters took center stage at President Macapagal-Arroyo's Pulong Bayan held at the Pandacan oil depot yesterday. (Related story on page 1)

The President led off the talks by discussing the alternative sources of energy that could be found and used in the country, amid rising oil prices worldwide.

"Humanap tayo ng paraan para hindi tayo umaasa sa langis sa ibang bansa (Let us look for other ways that would free us from depending on other countries for fuel)," she said.

The revival of the Bataan nuclear power plant, which was never used and is now gathering dust, was not mentioned during the discussion, but the use of natural energy sources and biological sources of fuel were tackled.

Projects that would use renewable sources like wind and solar power to generate energy are underway, the President said. A company had already expressed interest in putting up a solar power facility in southern Luzon, she added.

The President said tapping geothermal energy resources would help the country a lot.

The "very clean" process involves drilling three kilometers into the earth and utilizing steam that comes from a volcanic area, said Paul Aquino of the Philippine National Oil Corporation-Energy Development Corporation.

Biological sources like ethanol and coconut as additives to diesel or gas should be encouraged, especially if these would result in cleaner emissions, Ms Arroyo said.

But while the country has yet to fully tap the potential of these alternative energy sources, the President advocated the practice of more energy-conservation methods expected to reduce government expenditures.

Joined by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, the President said government offices should take the lead in practicing the energy-saving tips that would slash electricity, fuel and water bills.

Her appeal came a day after she announced that she had reduced the number of vehicles in her official convoy to save on gas.

The Presidential Security Group is reducing its electric consumption by turning off the lights when not necessary, and shutting down air-conditioners an hour earlier than usual.

Perez, for his part, said there is a moratorium on providing "gas-guzzlers" as vehicles for government officials.

He also pointed out that the government spends P2 billion in fuel costs, and another P2 billion in electricity costs yearly.

"If we can reduce this by 10 percent, we will be able to save P400 million a year," he said.

Illegal abattoir ordered shut in Quezon City

By Tina Santos

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has ordered the immediate closure of illegal slaughterhouses in the city to prevent the killing—and eventual sale—of hogs infected with Foot and Mouth Disease.

In his order to the Market Administration and Development Department (MADD) and the city Health Department, Belmonte noted that the bulk of hog meat sold in the markets is illegally slaughtered.

He cited as example the Victa slaughterhouse that he ordered closed for not complying with prescribed standards.

The MADD oversees the transport of live animals, while the health department takes care of the ante-mortem inspections.

P2.5M shabu seized

By Alcuin Papa

ANTIDRUGS task force agents arrested on Thursday a couple suspected to be drug dealers in Pasay City, and recovered a kilo of shabu worth P2.5 million.

The Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) identified the suspects as Cairoden Nanak, 34, of Marawi City, and a resident of 22 Manisan St., Quiapo, Manila; and his wife Monina, 31.

The two were arrested in an AIDSOFTF buy-bust operation at the parking lot of Copacobana Apartelle, Pasay City on Aug. 26 at around 10 p.m.

Led by Supt. Eduardo Acierto, the team arrested the suspects as they were about to hand over the illegal drugs to a policeman posing as a buyer.

Police recovered a kilo of shabu worth P2.5 million, a .45-caliber pistol, 12 rounds of bullets, assorted identification cards and 19 bundles in marked money from the suspects.

Charges of violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act are being readied against the couple.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday denounced the filing of robbery-extortion charges against eight of its personnel.

In a statement, PDEA Director General Anselmo Avenido said Chief Insp. Romualdo Iglesia, Sr. Insp. Romeo Ochave, and PO2s Roland de Guzman, Dionelito Rabasol, Alejandro Mananga, Anthony Torres, Arnel Victoriano and Bobby Santillan, could not have extorted money from Abdul Ibrahim Sangcopan on July 16.

Sangcopan claimed he was with his wife and two children on board his van travelling along Quirino Highway near Pangarap Subdivision, Caloocan City, at around 7 p.m. when their path was blocked by PDEA agents.

Detained for allegedly possessing illegal drugs, Sancopan later accused the agents of trying to extort P300,000 from him in exchange for his release.

Avenido said the PDEA agents couldn't have done so since at that time, they were busy gathering evidence for the case they would file against Sancopan.

COMPUTERS FOR MAKATI

Sen. Mar Roxas was a special guest at the recent opening of the 100th Netopia Internet café branch, Ayala Commerical Center, Makati City. Roxas is a leading advocate of information technology development. Behind him is Ray Espinosa, president of ePLDT, which operates the Netopia chain through Digital Paradise, Inc. Netopia donated computer units and IT training packages to the City of Makati.

Fertility rites mark protest

JOINING the worldwide celebration of the Global Day of Action On Waste, concerned citizens of Obando and Navotas will launch a street protest on Sept. 1 to push for the closure of the controversial 10-hectare dump in Barangay Tanza, Navotas, by way of an age-old ritual highlighted by a fertility dance.

The event, which aims to dramatize the people's call for government's immediate action against the controversial dump, is organized by an alliance composed of Pamalakaya-Bulacan, Obando People's Alliance Against Dumpsite, the Bulacan-Navotas-Malabon Puwersa Kontra Basura, Sining Yapak, Anak Pawis, GAIA, Mother Earth Foundation, Greenpeace, Bangon Kalikasan and the Center for Environmental and Development Studies.

Various socio-civic and religions groups will also join the protest.

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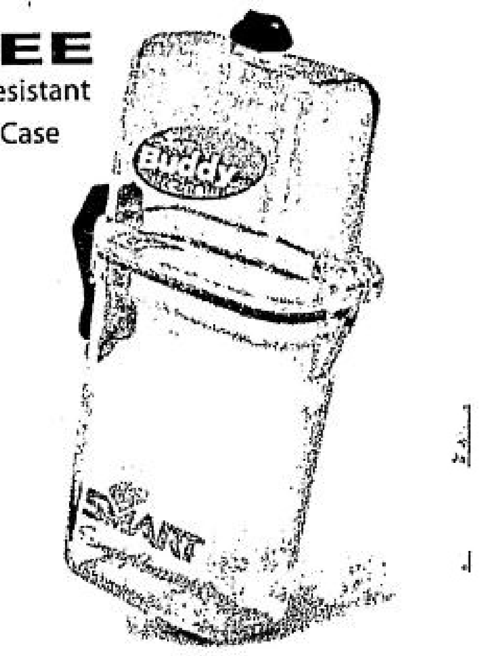

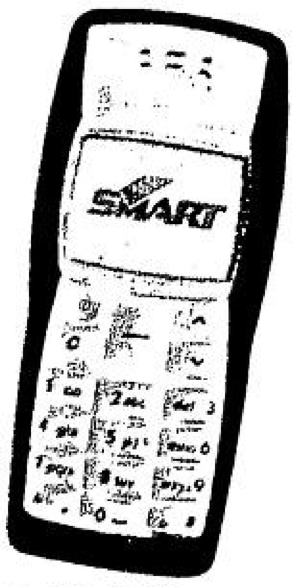

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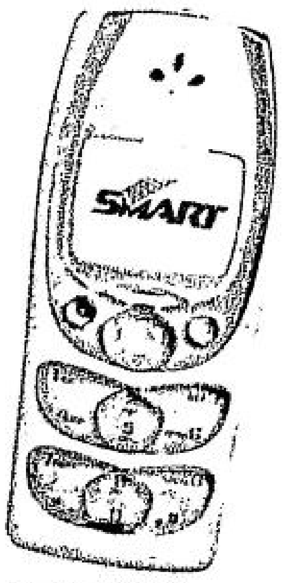

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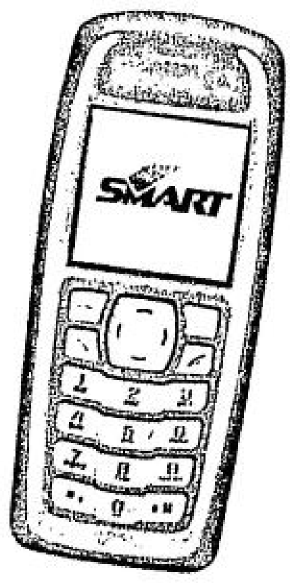

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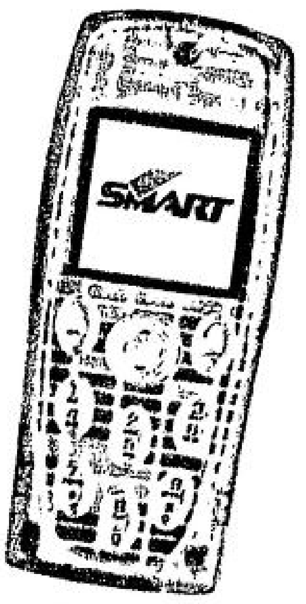

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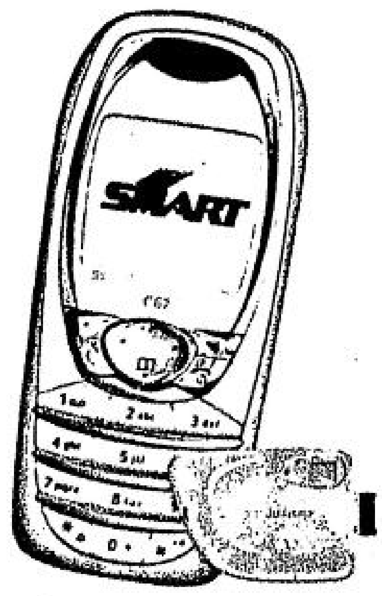

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: 2004 F1 Belgian Grand Prix; 7 p.m.; Star Sports; 8 p.m.; Sports Plus—See if Michael Schumacher claims another checkered flag.

TENNIS: ATP TD Waterhouse Cup; 7 a.m. (r-4 p.m.); Star Sports—Check out this warmup for the US Open.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Tiny Buenavista needs big strides in marathon bid

BARELY 5-feet, Eduardo Buenavista will be ranged against 6-footers in the 42K, closing event of the Olympics.

ATHENS—Filipino long distance specialist Eduardo Buenavista makes his bid in the marathon Sunday evening confident but uncertain how he'd end up in the final event of the 28th Olympic Games here.

ATHENS 2004

"*Nasa kundisyon ako* (I'm in shape)," said the 26-year-old, 5-foot runner from Santo Niño, South Cotabato. "I will give my best. *Pero hindi ko alam kung paano ako matatapos* (But I don't know how I will finish)."

Buenavista holds the Philippine record of 2 hours, 18 minutes and 44 seconds for the marathon. He set this during the Japan Marathon in Oita City last February.

"I'll try to improve that time," Buenavista promised on the eve of the race which starts at 6 p.m. The marathon will re-trace the route of the race when it was held in the Modern Olympic Games here in 1896, ending at the Panathainiko Stadium.

Buenavista also holds the national marks in the 3,000 steeplechase and the 5,000 and 10,000, but he decided to shift to marathon "*dahil mas may laban ako dito sa* (I have a better chance here in the) international competition."

Asked if he would try to set the early pace, Buenavista said: "*Hindi, mahirap 'yon. Pero hindi naman siguro ako mahuhuli* (It's not hard to do, but I don't think I'll be among the tailenders)."

The best Olympic performance in the marathon was recorded by Portugal's Carlos Lopes in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, when he clocked 2:09.55 (Montreal), Ireland's John Tracey, 2:09.56 (LA, 1984), Great Britain's Charlie Spedding, 2:09.58 (LA, 1984). and Ethiopia's Gezanghene Abora, 2:10.11 (Sydney).

Five other Filipinos had competed in the Olympic marathon, but Buenavista, who is vying in his second Olympics, appears to have a good chance of producing the best performance among them.

These were Benjamin Silva-Netto (Mexico), Victor Idava (Montreal), Leonardo Illut (Los Angeles), Herman Suizo (Barcelona) and Roy Vence (Atlanta).

WHAT'S INSIDE

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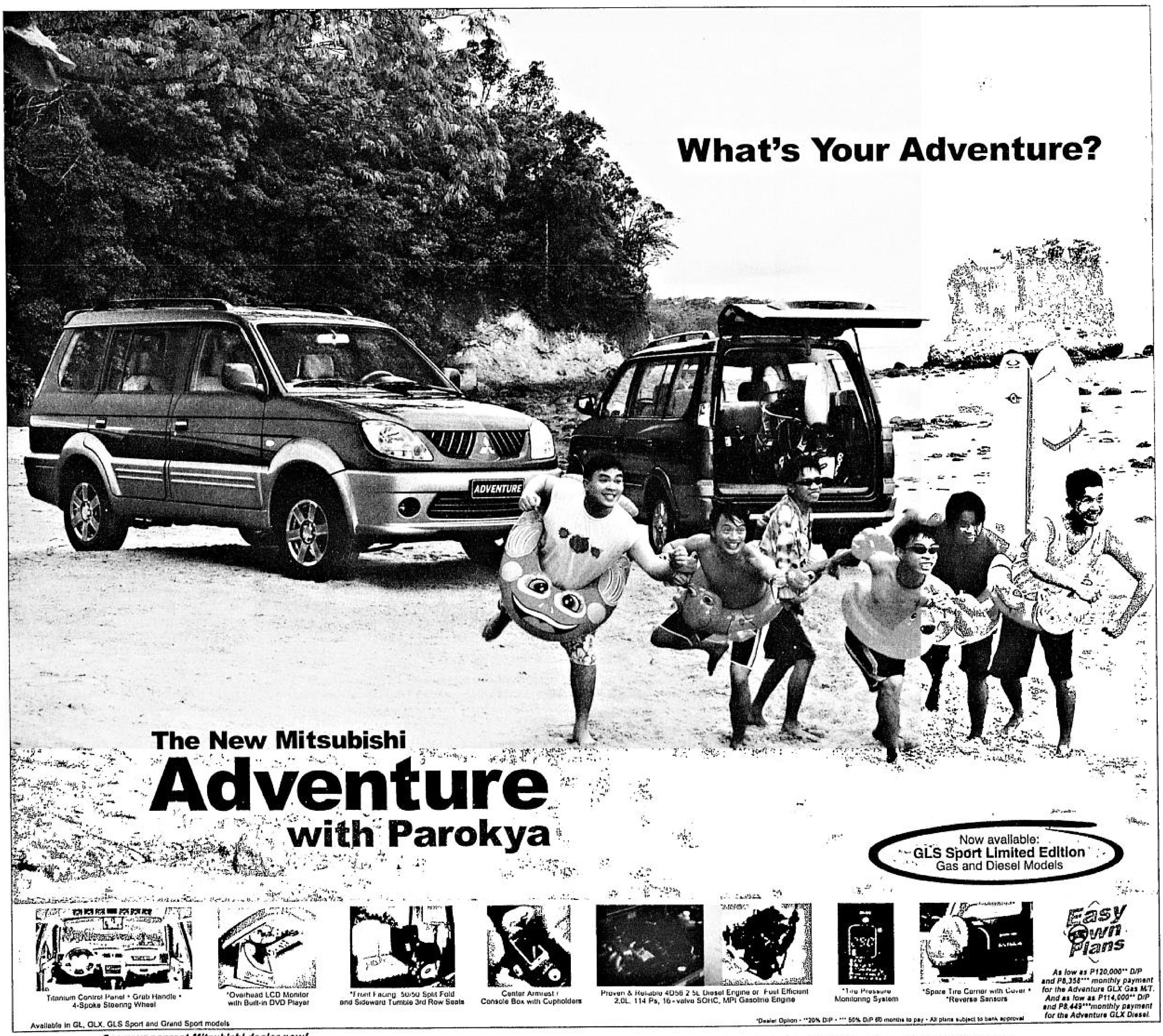

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Private help, volunteerism key to SEAG hosting—Obet

THE KEY elements in the hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games are complete private sector backing and the country's celebrated spirit of volunteerism.

Roberto Pagdanganan, Philsoc (Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee) chair, said these twin components are vital in the success of the SEAG after emerging from a meeting this week with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who defined government's financial position for the event.

The former Tourism chief announced that he would lay down and inspire a policy based on resourcefulness so as not to unnecessarily burden the national coffers.

"We all heard President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declare that we are facing tough times financially. While we are determined to honor an international commitment, we are also one with the government in responding to domestic responsibilities," said Pagdanganan, the incoming chair and president of the Philippine International Trade Corp.

On instructions of President Arroyo, Pagdanganan exchanged notes with Boncodin to determine the course of action and find means to augment government's resources for the hosting of the biennial sports meet that could cost P1 billion.

Most of the expenses will go to the refurbishing of facilities and training of the national athletes who are under pressure to give the country its first overall championship in the biennial sportsfest among 10 Asean nations.

Quick to admit that efforts to intensify private sector support campaign is the first option, Pagdanganan said Philsoc will host a summit among sports leaders involved in the preparation with the objective of pinpointing areas where resources can be saved, particularly in manpower.

The two other organizations working with Philsoc are the Philippine Sports Commission headed by Eric Buhain and the Philippine Olympic Committee under its president Celso Dayrit.

Picking up a vital lesson from his recent trip to the Athens Olympics where he represented the President, Pagdanganan cited the role of some 70,000 volunteers, including our former national swimming sensation Akiko Thomson, who were chosen from a field of 160,000 local and international applicants.

"Our country is well known for the spirit of Bayanihan. We must be able to make this spirit dominate the Games," he said.

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INFERIOR RP STYLE

Boxing gold doubly elusive after Athens

By Recah Trinidad

TAJIKISTAN

HARRY Tanamor (left), the Philippines' best bet, could not even reach the boxing quarterfinals.

AP

ATHENS--The terribly inferior fighting style displayed by the RP boxing team here could've indefinitely shut the door on the country's hunt for an Olympic gold medal.

The boxing results, which bared that Filipino amateur fighters have stagnated while overall competition has improved by leaps and bounds, showed the elusive first boxing gold medal for the Philippines is currently unreachable.

Of the four RP boxers, not one was able to inch close to a medal finish in the most hideous shutout since the high in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics where Onyok Velasco missed the gold by a few honest points.

The general view is that RP fighters, based on their crude, loose stand here, have remained stuck in near-primitivism.

The dismal showing by RP in the Olympic boxing arena was made doubly tragic by the tacit admission of the RP head coach and his top fighter who both swore they did not know how and why they had lost.

Coach George Caliwan was overheard as protesting the one-sided loss of light flyweight Harry Tañamor, who himself would insist he had landed more punches against his vastly superior Korean conqueror.

Take it from one who saw it close-up at ringside: Tañamor lost because he was clearly out-punched and badly beaten in the Olympic arena where the accepted scoring norm puts emphasis on pin-point punching, not on power and the ability to harm.

The debacle could mean the RP amateur boxing leadership has been rendered untenable.

There's the inevitable clamor for a shake-up of the amateur boxing hierarchy in the Philippines.

But the Lopezes, the father-and-son tandem of amateur boxing head Manny and former Manila mayor Mel, need not be alarmed at the moment.

Cebuano sportsman Tony Aldeguer, instantly tagged in circles as the best replacement for the current leaders, swore he's not interested in the position.

Aldeguer, who runs the ALA stable in Cebu, breeding ground of many world-class ring warriors, said he's more concerned about urgent changes in the national amateur boxing system.

Information from world boxing judge and Inquirer correspondent Salven Lagumbay in Cebu said Aldeguer was more interested in helping effect necessary changes.

"ALA humbly said the Lopezes are not the problem, but the amateur system. He's not accepting the post, but didn't also refuse suggestions to base the national amateur program in his gym," Lagumbay said in a text message from Cebu to Athens.

The elder Lopez, who took care of the boxers during competition as his son served in the Olympic boxing jury board, has returned to Manila.

Manny Lopez will have to see the boxing program down to its two-stage finals.

It's not clear though whether or not his coaching staff or his boxers would attend the championships where they can get clear, pulsating demos on how to win in the Olympics courtesy of fighters from world boxing powers.

If the RP coaches decided to watch the championships, they should get necessary information on why their style, although not exactly immature, has become grossly outdated.

SAMSUNG

Stunning triumph for RP ice skaters

THE VICTORIOUS SM Philippine Ice Skating team. The skaters were accompanied by SM'S vice president for leisure, engineer Ric Camaligan and SM Rinks' coaches Eric Navalta, Arnaldo Marinas, Marlou Tulda, Arnel Roselo, Dave Alarcon, Glen Guevara and Roy Rones.

THE FILIPINOS as ice skating champions? Sounds improbable.

But a bunch of homegrown Filipino youngsters indeed showed up their counterparts from snow-filled lands by grabbing the overall championship in the recent 2004 Ice Skating Institute of America's World Championships at the Schwan's Super Rink in Blaine, Minneapolis, in Minnesota, USA.

The SM Philippine Ice Skating Team, which included 43 skaters from the SM Megamall and SM Southmall rinks, brought home 90 gold medals, 62 silvers and 26 bronzes to amass 776.5 points.

That proved enough to best 88 teams from four countries: the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Mexico and the United States of America, which fielded teams from 24 states.

The White Bear Lake Sports team of the US placed second with 686.3 points.

Coseteng grabs BRC lead

MULTITITLED driver Jody Coseteng topped the seventh and eighth rounds of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships to grab the lead in the premier N1 division at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas recently.

Coseteng, the four-time Driver of the Year backed by Caltex Havoline and San Miguel Beer, was so pumped up aboard his Honda Civic, that he won over privateer Dominic Bon in Round 8 via a huge 32-second margin en route to a time of 25:22.105. In the same race, he had the fastest time of 1:49.774 in lap 3.

It was practically the same script in the seventh round, which Coseteng ruled with a time of 29:01.869, shoving to the backseat Bon (2nd), Philip Alvendia (3rd), Ferdie Ong (4th) and previous overall leader Rey Reyes (5th).

"My focus is the championship. I need to earn more points to further increase my lead over my rivals," said Coseteng."

TOYOTA CUP WINNERS

Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport (center) shares honors with Michelle Bumgarner of Standard Insurance (left) in the Formula Toyota Cup of the fourth leg of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit. With them is third placer Gabby de la Merced.

Question of the Week

INQBOX

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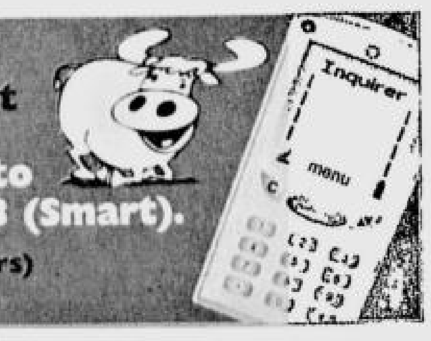

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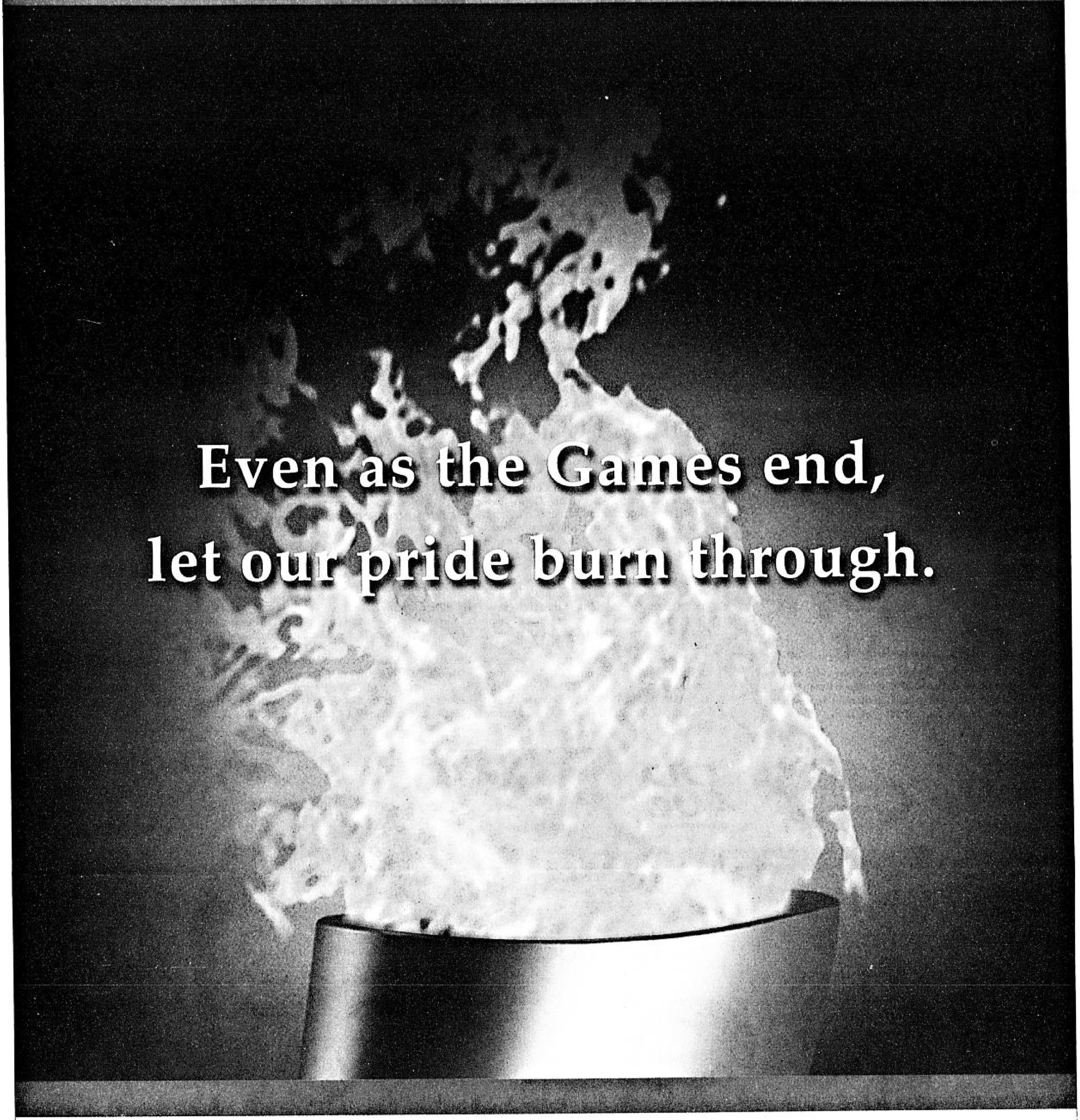

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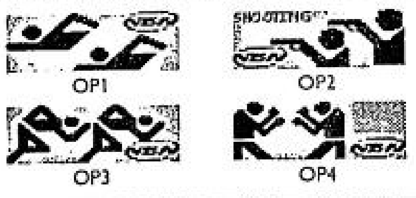

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Maroons stun Tams for 5th straight win

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines took on the spoiler's role yesterday as the Maroons foiled the Far Eastern Tamaraws' bid for the first Final Four slot with a 61-56 shocker in the 67th UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

"We're in business. I'm proud of my players, they have big hearts," said coach Lito Vergara after the Maroons' fifth consecutive victory, their longest winning streak in the last eight years.

The last time UP won five straight games was in 1986 when they won their only UAAP title.

In the other senior game, University of the East held on to fourth spot with a 6-5 slate as the Warriors drubbed the National University Bulldogs, 67-45, behind Marcy Arellano and Paolo Hubalde.

"We just need two more wins to be sure (of a slot in the Final Four)," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren.

UP, the only unbeaten team in the second round, is just a game behind UE at 5-6. FEU slipped to second at 8-3.

The Maroons trailed by 14 points, 43-29, but the Diliman cagers closed the third quarter with a 13-3 rally that trimmed FEU's lead to 46-42.

UE also moved up to fourth in junior play as the Pages clobbered the Bullpups, 94-74.

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
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*2 p.m.—UST vs La Salle (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Srs)
6 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

The scores:

Third game (Srs)

UP 61—Santos 14, Cervantes 12, Cruz 11, Almeda 10, Ibañes 7, David 4, Quebral 2, Ferrrer 1, Blenvenida 0, Buyco 0, Epres 0.

FEU 56—Rizada 16, Isip 15, Miranda 6, Santos 5, Chan 5, Yabut 4, Dela Cruz 4, Garcia 1, Villanueva 0, Santiago 0, Mangahas 0, Cutler 0, Barcellano 0.

Quarters: 13-17, 25-33, 42-46, 61-56.

THE SALINGGAWI Dance Troupe of University of Santo Tomas, defending champions of the UAAP Cheerdance Competition, are the top favorites to win the coveted title this September. The SDT is being backed once again by LA Gear.

Trinity, PCCr up

TRINITY College-Quezon City shocked reigning back-to-back champion Las Piñas College, 73-69, at the start of the 10th Colleges and Universities Sports Association (CUSA) basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The win capped a fine day for this year's host as its cheering squad also nailed the title in the cheerleading competition after three straight Top 3 finishes with no crown.

Last year's champion St. Jude College finished second while 2002 winner Central Colleges of the Philippines placed third. In the other game, Philippine College of Criminology edged Philippine Maritime Institute, 64-63, in overtime. Regulation play ended at 55-all.

Action resumes Tuesday at the PMI gym starting 8 a.m. with MLQU against CCP, Metro Manila Colleges against St. Jude, TIP against De La Salle-Araneta and World City Colleges against De Ocampo Memorial College. *Marlon Bernardino*

ΜΥΣΤΑΚΙΔΟΥ
ATHENS 2004

TAEKWONDO WINNER: Filipino Mary Antoinette Rivero (left) celebrates her quarterfinal victory ov

University of Makati trounc

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LEAGUE top scorers James Mangaran and Gerald Lorica banged in a combined 26 points as the University of Makati disposed of STI College-Makati, 67-55, yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball competitions at the Makati Coliseum.

Mangaran unloaded 17 points, while Lorica had nine for the Wizards, who snatched their eighth win in 14 games and firmed up their third-place standing in the seniors division behind University of Manila and St. Clare College of Caloocan.

In the second seniors game at the UM gym, St. Clare College of Caloocan edged Centro Escolar University, 72-71, for its 10th win against three losses. CEU absorbed its 7th loss in 12 games.

U-Mak made it a double treat after its junior team defeated Better Children of St. Clare

Mariano loses; Hu cops title

FILIPINO Grandmaster Nelson Mariano II lost his 11th and final round match against IM Yu Shaoteng of China, enabling Chinese GM Ni Hua to capture the crown in the recent first Dato' Arthur Tan Malaysian Open Championship at the Mid Valley City in Kuala, Lumpur Malaysia.

Mariano, who beat Malaysian FIDE Master Nicolas Chan in the 10th round was stuck at 7.5 points and dropped to a share of seventh to 13th places with compatriot GM Joey Antonio Jr., WGM Xu Yuhua of China, GM Alexei Barsov of Uzbekistan, IM Sadikin Irwanto of Indonesia, IM Mas Hafizulmi of Malaysia and Tito Chandra Purnama of Indonesia.

After the tie break, Antonio finished seventh while Mariano was 10th.

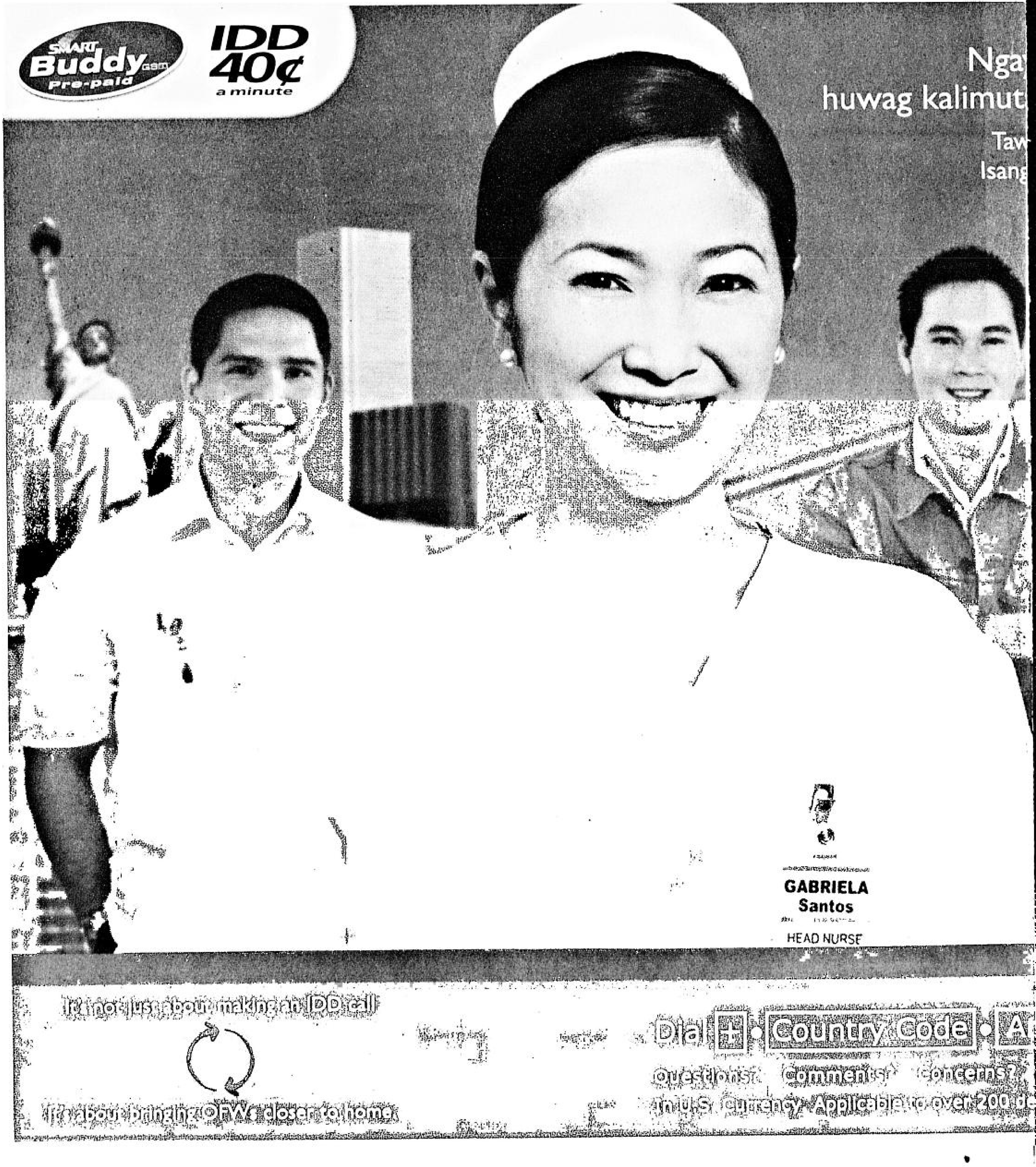
Hua settled for a draw with IM Susanto Megaranto of Indonesia in the last round to accumulate 8.5 points, good for the top purse of $3,000.

The best unrated player was International arbiter Rolando Yutuc of the Philippines with 7.0 points to finish in a tie for 14th to 22nd places.

FIDE Master Oliver Dimakiling finished 33rd after notching 6.0 points. FIDE president Florencio Campomanes finished with 5.0 points for 71st place.

Yutuc lost to WGM Xu Yuanyuan of China in the 10th round and upset IM Atanu Lahiri of Indonesia in the final round. Dimakiling halved the point with WGM Wang Yu of China in the 10th round then lost to IM Lim-Ye Weng of Malaysia in the final round.

Campomanes beat Joseph Toh then lost to Mohammad Omar Akhira in the next round. *NM Marlon Bernardino*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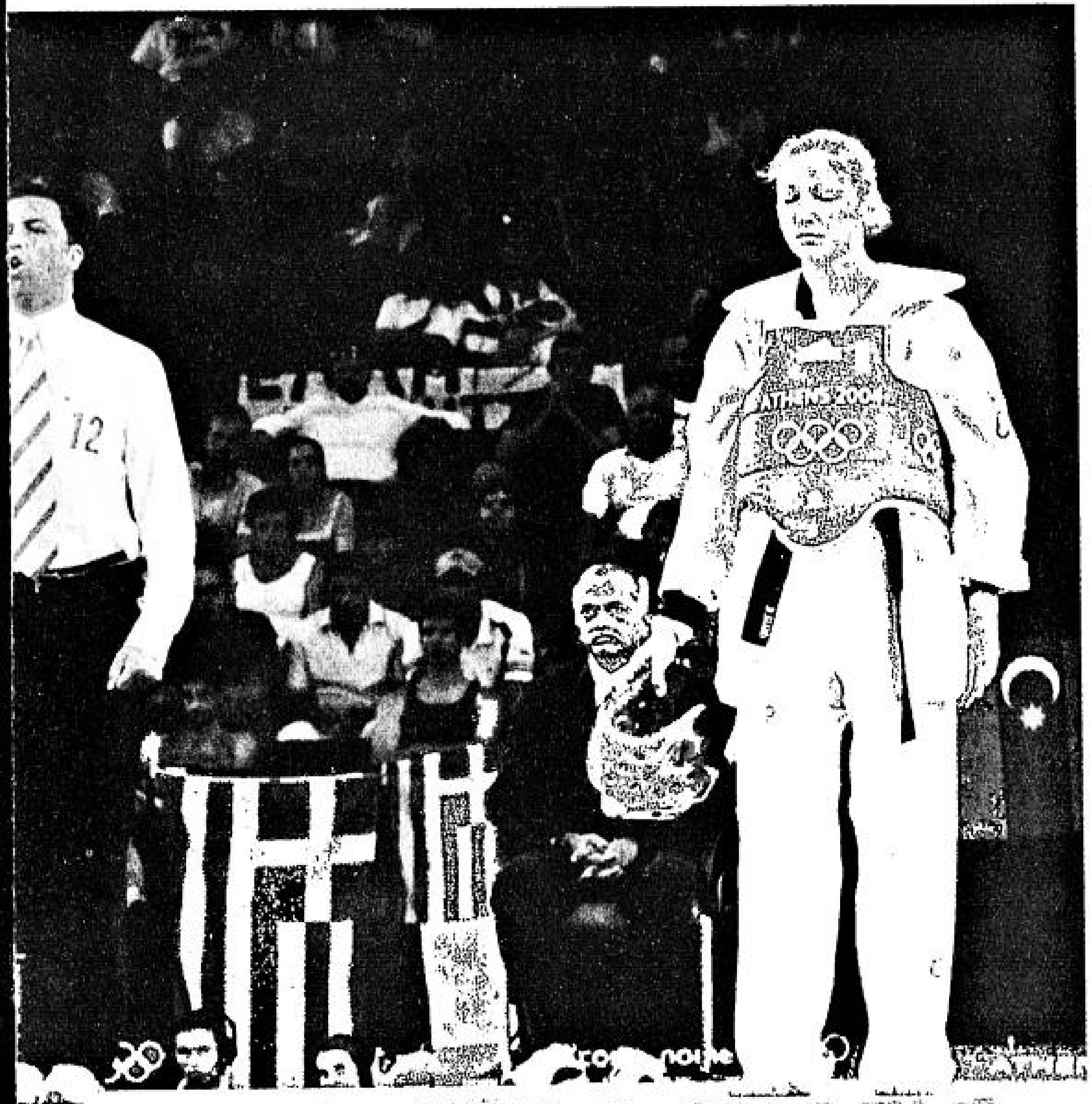

er Vanina Sanchez Beron of Argentina. She later lost to Greece's Elisavet Mystakidou in the semis. AP

es STI; St. Clare edges CEU

Montessori Center, 78-75, earlier also at the Makati Coliseum. The win gave the Junior Wizards the solo second place with 5-2 win-loss slate. BCSCMC fell to 1-5.

Mangaran and Lorica actually scored way below their averages after getting a jolt from the hard-fighting Olympians, who nevertheless slumped to their 11th defeat in 12 outings. Lorica and Mangaran are norming 20.5 and 19.75 points per game, respectively.

Though entering the game as heavy favorites, the Wizards appeared tentative throughout the game and could not shake off the Olympians who employed a stingy defense on U-Mak's frontline duo.

It was only in the fourth quarter when the charges of coach Michael Tolentino got into the groove, taking full control of the board and charging the lane for high-percentage shots to put the Olympians where they belong.

Larios says he's ready to challenge Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay

NOT ALL Mexican fighters fear Manny Pacquiao after all.

World Boxing Council super bantamweight champion Oscar "Chololo" Larios yesterday said he is ready to move up to the featherweight rank and challenge the Filipino champion, himself a former super bantam king in the International Boxing Federation.

"That's the fight he wants and we've already informed Murad that Larios is ready to make the fight," said Golden Boy Promotions matchmaker Eric Gomez in an interview with Boxingtalk.

Larios was reacting to a statement by Pacquiao's promoter Murad Muhammad, who said the other day that no one among Mexico's top fighters seems willing to get it on with the Filipino ring icon.

Murad's observation came after Pacquiao was left out of what could have been a mammoth confrontation with either Marco Antonio Barrera or Erik Morales after the two agreed to a rubber match on Nov. 27.

The third Barrera-Morales meeting will take place at either the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas or the Staples Center in Los Angeles and will be televised by HBO PPV.

Meanwhile, Muhammad said Pacquiao would still push through with his Sept. 8 trip to the United States to begin training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, along with younger brother Bobby and Cebu's superfly Z Gorres, a protege of sportsman Rudy Salud.

The Guadalajara, Mexico-based Larios, boasting of a 53-3-1, win-loss-draw slate with 35 knockouts, is considered by boxing experts as the world's best super bantamweight.

He has successfully defended his WBC crown six times since winning it via a 12th-round technical knockout over Israel Vasquez two years ago in Sacramento, California.

Pacquiao gave up his IBF super bantam title last March and then fought Juan Manuel Marquez for the Mexican's WBA-IBF featherweight title which ended in a split draw last May.

With Marquez opting out of a rematch, Pacquiao's handlers sought a second fight with Barrera, which fell through as the Mexican agreed to fight Morales instead.

Drilon Cup kicks off at San Lazaro

EMPIRE King and archrival Cover Girl will take the spotlight in the P1-million Philracom-sponsored Senate President Franklin M. Drilon Cup, the 26th edition of the 1867 Founders' Cup, today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Five other runners are entered in the 1750-meter race but Empire King and Cover Girl, winner of the third and first leg of this year's Triple Crown, are expected to rule the event offering a top prize of P600,000 and a replica of the Founders' Cup.

Four other cup events are lined up for today's program of 14 action-packed races, the Burlington Cup, F.R. Sevilla Cup, No Fear Cup and the Sta. Lucia Realty Cup.

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon will award the top prize and the replica of the Founders' Cup to the winner of the featured race.

MARHO RECOGNITION: Marho chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat (3rd from left) receives a plaque of appreciation from Edwin Villanueva, president of the Writers of Horseracing in the Philippines, for his all-out support of their inaugural WHIP Cup race at the Santa Ana Park recently. From left are WHIP officials Dennis Inigo (auditor), Fer Taboy (director), Howie Basilio (vice president) and Jonathan Balani (secretary/treasurer).

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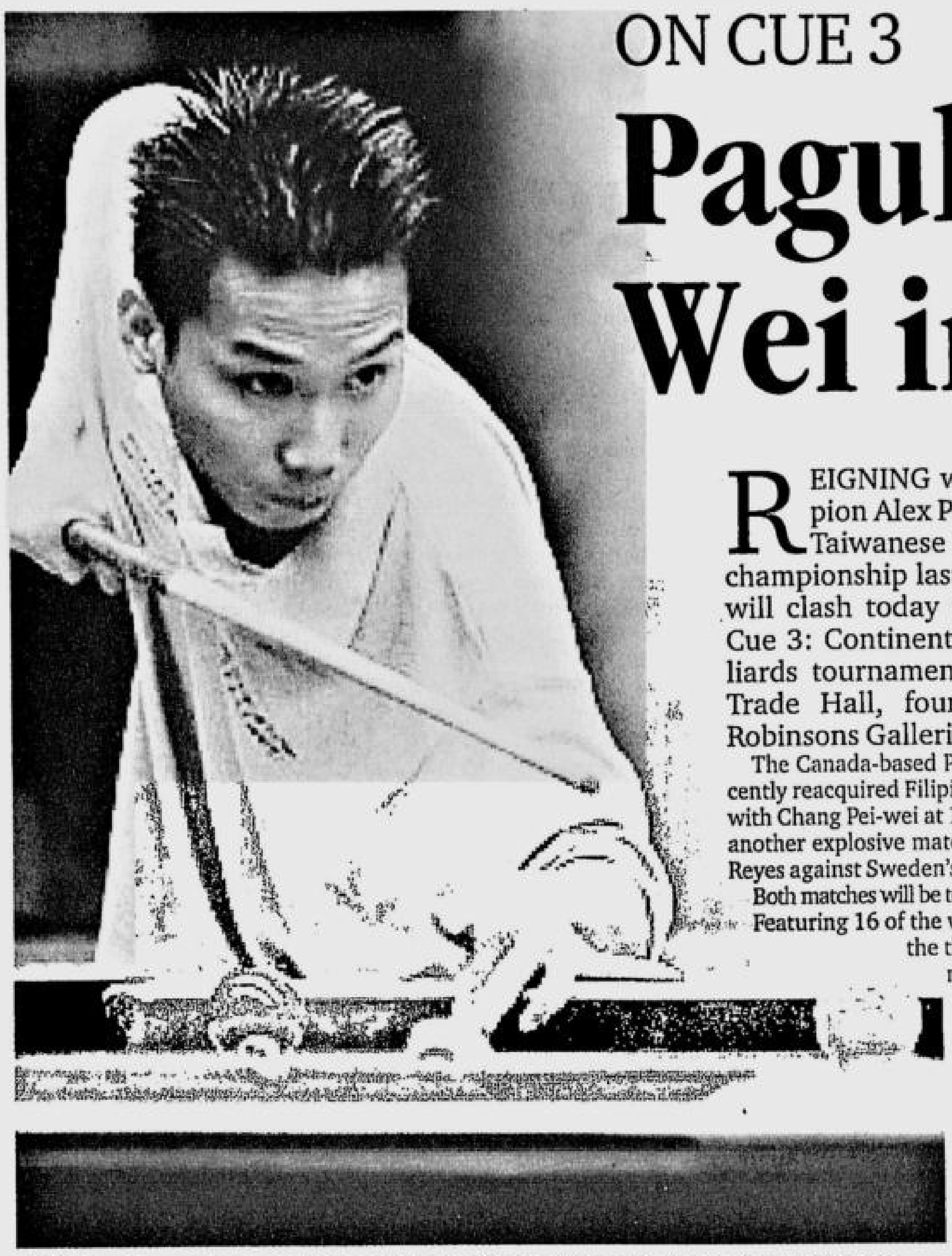
Race 2--1. Ann's Magic 2. Whistle Blower 3. Daldalera 4. Refreshing
Race 3--1. Tatler Cover 2. Successful Dream 3. Master Ijhay
Race 4--1. Field Star 2. Day and Night 3. Demolition Jack 4. Great Tower 5. Western Dancer 6. That's My Tiger
Race 5--1. Royal Catch 2. San Diego Force
Race 6--1. King Size 2. Reporter 3. Royal Magic 4. Streisand 5. Golden Africa
Race 7--1. Empire King 2. Cover Girl 3. Vindicated 4. Shadowfax
Race 8--1. Blue Bolero 2. Bullish View 3. She's An Angel 4. Tiger Winnie 5. Headliner
Race 9--1 Speed O War 2. Glamour
Race 10--1. Noble Principality 2. Fancy Free 3. Chase the Wind 4. Lucky Fil 5. Dot Com/Roulette Queen
Race 11--1. Concorde 2. Paramount 3. Chariot of Fire 4. Propensity/Little Girl
Race 12--1. Assunta de Rio 2. Better Beth 3. Royal Bet 4. Ganda
Race 13--1. Big Mama 2. Mika's Pride 3. Last Dance 4. Ilocos Princess
Race 14--1. Sweet Talk 2. Golden Cat 3. Hot Babe 4. D Joy of the Wild 5. Mr. Bullseye 6. Dynamic Jonjon

Gordon, Blue Eagles guest on Halikinu NU 107 FM

CATCH Halikinu Radio on Monday, Aug. 30, 9-10 p.m. on NU 107.5 FM featuring former Ateneo cheerleader Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon, comedian Dyords Javier and Blue Eagles Chris Tiu, Martin Quimson, Ford Arao and Johann Uichico. Guest co-hosts are PBA All-Star Olsen Racela, "Improv" comedian Gabe Mercado, funnyman Mhel Garrido and GMA 7 newscaster Pia Arcangel. Halikinu Radio, hosted by PBA sportscaster Mico Halili, airs Mondays 9:00 p.m. live on NU 107.5 FM and is presented by Smart, Simply Amazing in cooperation with Avia, Close-Up, i-Pod, Palm One, Wolfpac Mobile, 90 Proof , Power Station and Spoofs Limited.



ALEX Pagulayan, who recently reacquired his Filipino citizenship, is a top favorite for the $20,000 champion's purse in the 3-day event featuring 16 of the world's best cue artists.

ON CUE 3

Pagulayan faces Wei in opener

REIGNING world pool champion Alex Pagulayan and the Taiwanese he beat for the championship last month in Taipei will clash today to open the "On Cue 3: Continental Conquest" billiards tournament at the Galleria Trade Hall, fourth level of the Robinsons Galleria.

The Canada-based Pagulayan, who has recently reacquired Filipino citizenship, tangles with Chang Pei-wei at 10:20 a.m. followed by another explosive match pitting Efren "Bata" Reyes against Sweden's Marcus Chamat.

Both matches will be telecast live on Studio 23.

Featuring 16 of the world's best cue artists, the three-day event is organized by ABS-CBN Sports in partnership with Puyat Sports.

It is actually the third major billiards event after the RP vs Europe Challenge staged as part of ABS-CBN's 50th Anniversary and the Battle of Champions (RP vs Europe II) last year.

Four of the country's world-caliber cue masters—Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Warren Kiamco and Lee Van Corteza—will match skills with the best players from North America, Europe and Asia.

ABS-CBN top honcho Gabby Lopez has put up a total cash purse of $50,000. The champion gets the top prize of $20,000 cash with $10,000 going to the runner-up. The third and fourth placers will receive $5,000 each while $2,000 each goes to the fifth to eighth placers.

"We've gathered only the world's best billiards players in bringing to the Filipinos the biggest sports spectacle they shouldn't miss," said ABS-CBN VP for Sports Peter Musngi.

Competition starts after the ceremonial lag at 10 a.m.

Much of the country's hopes are pinned on Reyes and Bustamante.

Reyes, considered the greatest billiards player in the world, is best remembered for his title feat in the 1999 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales. Bustamante, who bagged the 2003 International Challenge of Champions crown, is currently ranked No. 2 in the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA).

Tickets are available at the Robinsons Galleria: P350 for VIP seats and P200 for bleacher seats on Aug. 29 and 30, and P500 for VIP and P300 for bleachers on Aug. 31.

Bibat, Manotoc show mettle in Putra Cup

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPPO Karawaci, Indonesia—Youngsters Michael Bibat and Matthew Manotoc are using golf to accomplish diverse goals.

Bibat, who turns 20 next month, couldn't wait to get out of high school so that he can start making a career out of golf.

Manotoc, 15, took up golf again to have the best chance of getting a collegiate scholarship in the United States.

They now share one thing in common after the Putra Cup where they led their respective national teams to fourth-place finishes in the event that is officially the Southeast Asian team championships.

BIBAT ROGER CARPIO

Uncut diamonds who turned out to be real gems, Bibat and Manotoc came up with worthy performances that signaled the coming of new talents for the men's and junior's teams.

With the veterans struggling, Bibat turned in a five-under card in the final two rounds to wind up No. 6 in the individual division.

Father Tommy also felt the same way of Matthew, who shot a five-under 67 in the third round to finish fourth in the individual junior race, just one stroke shy of a medal.

"These guys are naturals," the elder Manotoc said. "They have the heart of a fighter to begin with and they love to play in big tournaments like this."

Bibat and Manotoc played their first international event in the seven-nation tournament, embracing the challenge and playing through it with the poise of veterans.

It seems Manotoc is taking the safer way in life and Bibat is gambling with it.

But one thing seems to be certain, the way they played here. Both will be wearing the national colors more before they achieve what they both set out to do.

Eagle Ridge Invitational stakes Nissan X-Trail

A BRAND-NEW Nissan X-Trail worth more than a million pesos tops the prizes to be disputed on and off the courses in the second staging of the Eagle Ridge Invitational, the member-guest tournament of the country's biggest golf complex in Gen. Trias, Cavite, on Sept. 25-26.

The 36-hole tourney for Eagle Ridge members and their invited guest partners will be played at the Faldo and Norman courses with prizes totaling more than P2 million up for grabs.

Registration is now going on at Eagle Ridge with an entry fee of P7,000, inclusive of two practice rounds, two grand raffle tickets, Dunlop golf shirts, caps and balls, and dinner for the awarding ceremonies on Sept. 26.

Aside from the two Nissan X-Trail 4x2 automatic that will be at stake as prizes for a hole-in-one on the eighth hole of Norman and No. 3 of Faldo, a similar model of the best-selling car will be raffled off.

Sponsoring this year's Eagle Ridge Invitational are Alsons Insurance, Mizuno, Micortel, Mandarin Oriental, Wilson Sports, Prime Deli-Monterey, RB Michael Press, Gerry's Buco, Universal Towels, Golf Library, Pacsports, Tigra Gas, W.G. Construction, G-Shop, SLGC, Petron and GG&A Clubshares.

Format of scoring is Modified Stableford with full handicaps applied. The maximum handicap for all entries is 27 with guests required to submit their latest and lowest handicap certified by IPI.

To be disputed are the team award for three divisions based on the average handicaps of the two members.

Breaking into Formula 1 motorsport difficult—Pastor

TOM Pastor, president of the Philippine Formula Autosports Foundation Inc. that manages the racing program of his two sons, including 2002 Asian Formula Renault champion Enzo Pastor, said that breaking into Formula 1 motorsport will be a difficult task.

"Getting into Formula 1 is like going through the eye of a needle whether you are aiming for a seat as a test driver or as a mainstay. The process is tough and also very expensive," said Pastor, after arranging for a possible test for Enzo.

Teams will look into a driver's credentials very closely and they must have a solid record as far as experience and results are concerned. For instance, the Jordan F1 team says that only drivers who have finished first or second place in at least three open wheel series in three consecutive years and who have won a major championship series are considered for an F1 test, and eventually a permanent seal.

Also the age of a driver must be between 23 years old and not more than 27 years old for Asian drivers.

For inquires log on to www.F1-dream.com.ph and www.teamtecpilipinas.com.ph.

ASIAN FESTIVAL OF SPEED
DENSO
IRID POW
ASIAN

ENZO Pastor (right) remains a good bet to make it to the tough Formula One circuit despite stringent requirements.

SPORTSWATCH

Return bout for Gorres

ANOTHER big boxing show is in store for Cebuano fans when promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani unwraps the "Return of the Z" promotion at Mandaue City Sports Complex on Sept. 4. The event will feature the first comeback fight of Z "The Dream" Gorres at the Cebu arena after a year of absence as well as the return of another *balik*-Cebu fighter, Bart Abapo. The lanky 25-year-old Abapo did most of his fighting this year in Indonesia and Australia where he racked up a 1-2-1 win-loss-draw record. Abapo made his last appearance in Cebu by stopping Jun Longakit in five rounds at the Danao City Sports Complex in December last year. To regain top rating, the 18-fight veteran Abapo is slated to trade blows with US-trained Arnick Arabala, who hails from Cagayan de Oro and fights under the stable of Nick Galarte. A victory would line him up for a title shot against the current champion, Bobby Pacquiao. For reservations, call Leilani or Clarice at (032) 3463489 or 0917-6211014 and 0917-3253005. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

Suico OPBF defense

ORIENTAL and Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight champion Randy "Komong Bato" Suico will defend his OPBF title against Indonesia's Ibrahim Aroby on Oct. 23 at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Complex. The dynamite-fisted Suico, who kept his world rating as WBC No. 2 following his controversial loss to South Africa's Mzonke Fana last May, will be making the third defense of the OPBF crown he won in 2002 with a sixth-round technical knockout of Korean Sung-ho Yuh. Should Suico win the 12-round bout with Aroby, the Mandaue City-bred prizefighter will most likely figure in a grudge rematch with Fana for the soon-to-be-vacated WBC throne as reigning champion Erik Morales is expected to move up to the lightweight category in his rubber match with Marco Antonio Barrera on Nov. 27. Suico holds a fearsome 21-1 win-loss record with 18 knockouts, and remains confident of retaining his title against Ibrahim, who parades an 18-1-2 win-loss-draw record with 9 KOs. Promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, who has originally slated the event on Oct. 16, said that he moved the fight on the 26th as he would be attending the World Boxing Association's 83rd Annual Convention in Ukraine set Oct. 13-16.

Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

7-stag derby Aug. 31

A SLAMBANG confrontation of big-time cockers will be the main fare of Jimafer JVL EC 7-Stag Derby, the explosive opener of Araneta Coliseum's stagfighting season slated on Aug. 31 and Sept. 2. National Cockers Association (NCA) president Ito Ynares confirmed the participation of cockfighting heavyweights like Danding Cojuangco, Nene Araneta, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco, Jun Santiago, Philip Chiongbian, Biboy Enriquez, Raymond Velayo, GCAP president Patrick Antonio, Sonny Lagon, Jet Fernando, Jun Jingco and Efren Canlas of Pampanga. Also seeing action are Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Nilo Lizares, Joe Laureno, Jun Cometa, Choy Ampil and Lancey de la Torre, Primallion Brothers of Zamboaga, Gerry Ramos, Rep. Chito Bersamin, Rene and Ric de Guzman, Eric dela Rosa and Gildo Capucchino. Participants are expected to field their best to gain an early upper hand in the NCA Stagfighter of the Year race.

Showdown derby set

BARELY a week before its staging on Sept. 4, 6 and 8, the 2004 Showdown 7-Stag Derby is expected to be another unforgettable event with no less than 140 farms and more than 3,000 stags banded at presstime. Hosted by Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu and Juancho Aguirre with Mimi Itchon as screener, the event is sponsored by Thunderbird Enertone, Lakpue Drug and Casino Filipino. Ray-Showdown will present the most popular cockers and breeders from all over the country. Confirmed to see action are Pol Estrellado, Joey and Boboy de los Santos, Muroy Dolorico, Baby Canillas, Blandy Tolentino, Boy Marso and Benjie Lim, Boy Lechon, Dicky Lim, Tony Lasala, Tiny Meneses, Madison Go and Tito Reyes, Boy Royo, Ramon Mansenares, Allan Siaco and Boy Montano, Erwin Diamante, Jeff and Joel Fernando, Rep. Ronnie Espina, Arnold Mendoza, William Go, Mayor Ashley Arayata, Mike Romullo, Riyoichi Saito, Jun Tapacio, Romy Tan, Vice Gov. Lambino, Aron Cacho, Rey Que, Allan Chan, Gabriel Pocholo, R. Villarubio, Enrique Meranda, Bobot Booc, and the group of Gov. Tony Kho of Masbate.

Ifs

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I MISSED what could have been a memorable trip to Surrey, England, in October. And that's because I made a 7 at the par-4 17th of the Manila Golf Club. I need to share this experience with you if only to emphasize once more the tough nature of golf, if not to also let off steam.

Grrr.

OK, the details.

For 16 holes, I had not had a 7 that day. By any standards among duffers like me, that was something to be proud of. Why, I made one birdie that day.

Golf is so difficult a game you need total concentration for a minimum of four hours to be able to emerge from the game fully satisfied.

On 17, my tee shot was almost perfect. "In the center of the middle," as golfers love to say when they see a good tee shot.

But even better was my second shot—it landed just maybe 20 yards from the green.

You know, we were teeing off from the championship tees. Like we were pros. Manila Golf Club is really long when you hit from its championship tees. And the terrain, well, the Forbes Park layout isn't peanuts, what with its up-and-down, almost roller-coaster design. We were playing minus golf carts. And because of rains the night before, the course played longer because of the soggy fairways.

Still, I couldn't complain. For 16 holes and two shots from the 17th tee, it was heaven.

Then it happened.

I missed my third shot to the 17th green. Dub. Look-up. The ball traveled a mere four feet.

Suddenly, the concentration thing was gone.

The thief of thieves stole everything away.

I missed my fourth shot. Shank. Look-up. Sway. The ball drifted some 10 feet away, near the bunker.

Five on. Two putts.

If it's any consolation, I bogeyed the par-5 18th after recovering from a poor drive.

After swigging quick my ice-cold bottle of beer, I took my shower. Despite that 7 on 17, I felt happy. My heart was even being pinched by something I couldn't explain when I walked out of the lockers.

At the award ceremonies, the pinching feeling was unearthed: I lost the championship. By two strokes. Romeo Chong had won the HSBC Golf tournament and was awarded a pair of business class tickets from Cathay Pacific to London Heathrow. HSBC top honcho Warner Manning will play host to Romeo and his Juliet(?) in the HSBC World Match Play in October at the Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey where Ernie Els is the defending champion. Romeo also won a complete set of HSBC World Match Play branded items, which Laine Santana had so meticulously assembled before she left the tournament for a mission in Hong Kong. And yes, eat your hearts out, fellas, for Romeo also took home a Johnnie Walker Blue.

Now going back to that 7 on 17.

Imagine if I had only done 5 in that hole, which wasn't difficult at all. As I said, I was just maybe 20 yards away from the green when I addressed my third shot.

Had I landed on the green and proceeded to make par, which was really very realistically possible, I could have won it by one.

Had I bogeyed it, which was easily achievable if you know what I mean, I could have still won it via the count back.

It just wasn't my day. And there's nobody to blame but me. I lost my concentration after having survived being distanced from the rest of the world for 3 hours and 45 minutes. In seconds, the bubble burst.

Such is golf that you can't really afford to lose your focus for just a single second. That's why in so many ways, this game is really the game of inches and not yards, of dimension and not distance.

This is also a game filled with ifs.

If I had not made a 7...

Grrr.

***

FASTBREAK. Jun Velasco, Oliver Gan Chua and Jess Garcia will stage the much-awaited RP Cycling Stars Showdown in Dagupan City on Sept. 12, featuring the nation's top cyclists like Arnel Quirimit, Ryan Tanguilig and Victor Espiritu, among others. The Interpublic Special Events, Inc. will oversee the cycling marathon and is staking cash prizes on top of the Mayor Benjie Lim Cup. Lito Alvarez of FedEx is also into this noble project that will help showcase the ambitious plan to project Dagupan's Tondaligan beach as the future home of a world-class port and marina.

Defeat gives US lessons to ponder on

ATHENS—Do you believe in mirages?

The myth that the NBA could pick 12 guys based on availability and sneaker politics and still mop up a basketball floor with the rest of the world is finally deader than dead. Good riddance to that.

With this latest version of Team USA, getting run out of the Olympics was always a matter of when, not if. Maybe nobody could have predicted a month ago they'd lose more games in a single tournament than US teams lost in the previous 68 years basketball has been played at the games.

But anyone surprised by Argentina 89, USA 81 must have sold their TV set shortly after Michael Jordan retired in 1999.

If so, everything you needed to know about what's wrong with NBA basketball ever since was made all too apparent in a 35-second span at the end of the third quarter Friday night.

After Team USA pulled within 66-57, Argentina brought the ball down the floor and ran guard Manu Ginobili through a series of screens. It required the coordinated movement of bodies and ball that is a staple of international play, but something you rarely see in the league anymore.

So it was no surprise that US guard Dwayne Wayne, Ginobili's defensive shadow, simply tried crashing through the final one and wound up crashing into him instead—just as the Argentine (and San Antonio Spurs) star let fly with a 3-pointer that hit nothing but net.

Lost art

Ginobili then completed a four-point play by making his freethrow—another lost art in the NBA—and suddenly Argentina was ahead by 10. One possession later, after teammate Carlos Boozer grabbed a long rebound off a missed Argentina shot and fired a quick outlet pass to Wade on the wing, he took off down the floor at full speed.

Getting back on defense is yet another lost art in the NBA, but nobody told that to the four Argentine defenders who raced up the court alongside Wade. Determined to produce one of those NBA highlight-reel moves, Wade waded fearlessly into the thicket. He never got the shot off. Wade had his pocket picked.

Give the NBA guys credit for something. They grumbled a little about not getting breaks, and the closest coach Larry Brown came to confirming an officiating conspiracy against Tim Duncan, his best player, was this: "I saw every game and I don't know if there was any pattern—other than getting him to the bench."

Then again, they hardly needed excuses once Ginobili started talking.

"I don't think the rest of the world has reached the level of the United States," he said. "Everybody wants to do their best against the United States so, it's really hard for those guys."

Ginobili was part of the Argentine squad that ended a 58-0 streak assembled by NBA all-star collections standing in as Team USA at the 2002 world championships, and he repeated something he said then.

"To be sure for them to win, they have to bring their best."

It's probably true that if Shaquille O'Neal, Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady reported for duty, the result would have been different.

That very idea prompted Allen Iverson to practically plead with some of his fat and happy counterparts to show up next time, to remember how they got so fat and happy in the first place.

Honor

"Understand first and foremost that it's an honor to be on a team like this," he said.

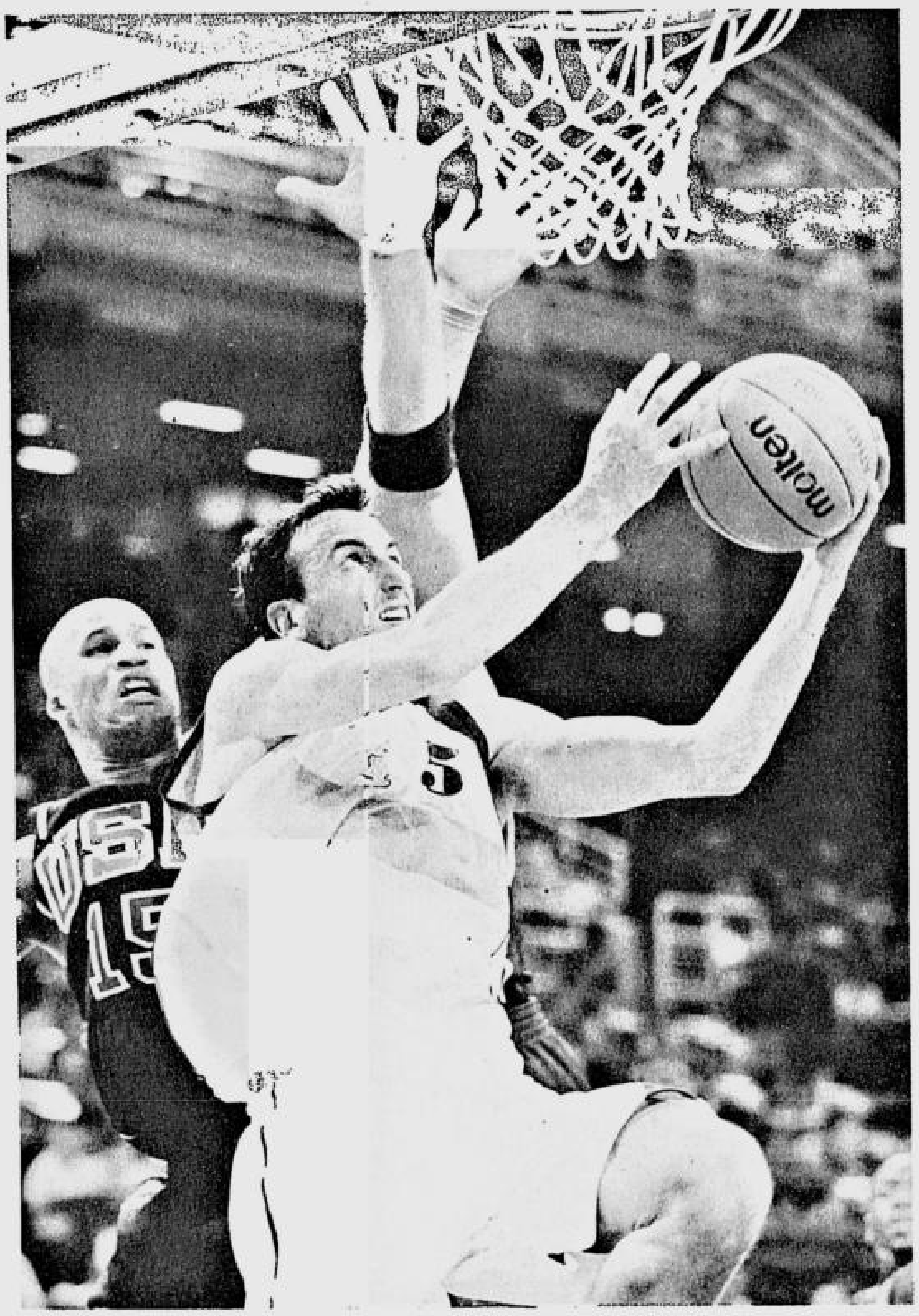
But that still misses the point. These guys didn't lose to better talent. They lost to better teams.

That's going to happen more and more, unless NBA teams learn how to play together again.

NBA commissioner David Stern spoke at halftime about how, once the league ventured into the international arena, it knew days like this were coming.

What Friday night proved is that he should have thought of it sooner. *AP*

STRUCK by a painful wake-up call, Allen Iverson and the rest of Team USA will have to reassess their style—and priorities. AFP



EMANUEL Ginobili helped lower the curtains on the US dominance in Olympic basketball, scoring 29 points in an 89-81 win that ousted the Americans. AFP

BASKETBALL

Argentina ends American reign

ATHENS—Just 12 years after Michael Jordan and the United States Dream Team rolled to Olympic basketball gold, Argentina and Italy are living the dream and all that's left for Americans is a wake-up call.

Argentina inflicted the most humbling moment in American basketball history upon a United States squad of National Basketball Association stars, dethroning them 89-81 here Friday.

Emanuel Ginobili, a guard for the NBA San Antonio Spurs, scored 29 points to spark the South Americans into Saturday's Olympic gold medal game against Italy, which stunned previously unbeaten Lithuania, 100-91.

"We proved to the world we're a very tough team, and we made it against the professionals," Ginobili said. "Now we have to rest and concentrate on our big target—the top place and the gold medal. This is what we deserve."

The first collection of NBA talent since 1992 not to claim Olympic gold, the Americans fired a dismal 42 percent from the field, closing a US dynasty that produced 12 gold medals and a 109-2 record before Athens.

"We fought as hard as we could," US co-captain Allen Iverson said. "We just couldn't get it done."

A US-Lithuania matchup expected to be for gold will be played for bronze instead. Lithuanians have settled for bronze at the past three Games.

A US team that has lost three times in seven Olympic games—92-73 to Puerto Rico in the opener and 94-90 to Lithuania in round-robin play—could become the first American team that fails to win an Olympic medal.

"We need to understand that even if we're not fighting for the gold medal, we still represent our country and fight like it was a gold medal game," Iverson said. "It's important to make the people back home proud of us."

That might not be possible after their golden flop, but the US was set up for failure when several top stars rejected Olympic overtures. Iverson had a message for them—get yourselves into USA uniforms for the 2008 Beijing Games.

"You are supposed to approach it as an honor," Iverson said. "Not many people get a chance to be part of this."

Argentina clinched a first-ever basketball medal by reaching the final while Italy, led by 31 points from Gianluca Basile and 16 from captain Giacomo Galanda, won its only medal, a silver, at the boycott-marred 1980 Moscow Games.

"This is the best day of my life," Galanda said. "I don't know how we did it. It's incredible. Amazing."

The only US Olympic losses prior to Athens were to the Soviet Union in a controversial 1972 Munich final and a 1988 Seoul semifinal.

"It's clear they were better than us," Anthony said. "But we know we can beat this team."

"Americans are always saying they have the best team," countered Argentina guard Juan Sanchez. "But they have to prove it inside the court."

Ginobili, only 15 when Michael Jordan led the 1992 US Dream Team to Olympic gold, hit 9-of-13 shots, including 4-of-6 three-pointers. As a team, Argentina shot 54 percent, hitting 11-of-22 three-pointers.

"The NBA title we won with the Spurs is very big," he said. "But to win a gold medal in the Olympics, when you represent your country and have 35 million people back home cheering you, is really special. I don't have words for it."

"Ginobili is a great player. He's an even better competitor," US assistant coach and NBA San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "He combined both and did a great job."

At the finish, fans chanted "Ole" as the Argentina team danced with joy while the Americans dejectedly walked out. *AFP*

Cubans put seven boxers in gold hunt

ATHENS—Cuba put seven of their eight boxers into the weekend's Olympic boxing finals but a couple of 17-year-olds stole the Friday semifinal show.

The Communist country is seeking to equal the seven boxing golds they won in the 1992 Barcelona Games, the most by any nation in a non-boycotted Games.

Only three Cubans have failed to win a medal in Athens.

British sensation Amir Khan stormed from behind to outpoint Kazakhstan's Serik Yeleuov to reach Sunday's lightweight (60-kg) final.

The 17-year-old will face 33-year-old Cuban defending champion Mario Kindelan in the final. Atagun Yalcinkaya, who is six days younger than Khan as the youngest medal winner for half a century, stunned Russian world champion Sergey Kazakov to reach the light flyweight (48-kg) final.

The Istanbul teenager does not have the aura Khan possesses but he was just as confident of beating Yan Bhartelemy for the gold. The Cuban came from behind to beat Zou Shiming of China.

Cuba's dual world heavyweight (91-kg) champion Odlanier Solis stopped Naser al-Shami of Syria in three rounds and will fight Viktar Zuyev of Belarus in Saturday's final.

Yuriorkis Gamboa faces Jerome Thomas of France, the 2001 world champion and 2003 world championship silver medalist, in the flyweight (51-kg) final.

Cuban southpaw Yudel Johnson faces Thailand's Manus Boonjumnong in Saturday's light welterweight (64-kg) final.

Thailand got two men in the finals when Worapoj Petchkoom scored a sensational win over world bantamweight (54-kg) champion Aghasi Mammadov of Azerbaijan.

He fights defending champion Guillermo Rigondeaux of Cuba in Sunday's final. *AFP*

Amid men's loss, women shoot for glory

ATHENS—At first glance, it would seem to be the perfect matchup, a dream draw, if you will.

All the United States has to do to claim a third straight gold medal in women's basketball on Saturday is beat Australia, which is 0-12 against US teams in the Olympics and world championships.

No worries then, right mate? Hardly.

"This is our biggest test of the year," United States coach Van Chancellor said. "They're playing great. We've got to play."

A rematch of the 2000 gold medal game in Sydney—a 76-54 US victory—was assured when Australia raced past Brazil, 88-75, in Friday's semifinals. The Aussies got another big game from Lauren Jackson (26 points, 13 rebounds) and double-figure scoring from four others.

If only it were that easy for the United States, which had to claw its way past Russia, 66-62—the first time the Americans have been pushed to the end in these games. The US players said it was just what they needed going into the final game, but it showed that with patience and solid interior defense, it's possible to give the Americans some problems.

"We're quietly confident that we can do it," Australia's Trish Fallon said. *AP*

Tearful Jones blows medal bid

ATHENS—Marion Jones is going home without a medal.

Winner of five medals and arguably the biggest star of the Sydney Games four years ago, the American finished fifth in Friday's long jump and—barely one hour later—went out with the US 4x100 relay team.

Jones ran the second leg and was trying to hand over the baton to Lauryn Williams. But Williams had taken off too soon and never managed to grab it, leaving the Americans out of the race.

"Wait up! Wait up!" Jones screamed as she desperately lunged forward, finally reaching her younger teammate and 100-meter silver medalist on the third attempt.

By then Williams was already out of the handoff zone. She stopped running, and Jones put her arm around Williams as the two walked to the end of the track.

Jones clutched Williams' hand tightly and tears trickled down Jones' face when she was asked later about her Olympic experience.

"It was a rough one," she said, breaking into more tears. "I just couldn't get the baton to Lauryn, and it didn't happen today.

"It was an extremely disappointing performance for me. It exceeded my wildest dreams in a negative sense," Jones said. "I looked for great things this year. It didn't happen for me and it didn't happen for the team this year."

MARION Jones (right) embraces teammate Lauryn Williams. REUTERS

With the Americans out, Jamaica took the gold in 41.73 seconds, Russia was second in 42.27 and France won the bronze in 42.54.

It was a historic night for China, the host nation of the next Olympics in 2008, which got two gold medals one hour apart.

Liu Xiang became the first Chinese man to get an Olympic gold in athletics when he equaled the world record to win the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 12.91 seconds, then Xing Huina captured the women's 10,000.

Timothy Mack set an Olympic record at 5.95 meters to lead a 1-2 US finish in the pole vault, with Toby Stevenson taking the silver at 5.90. *AP*

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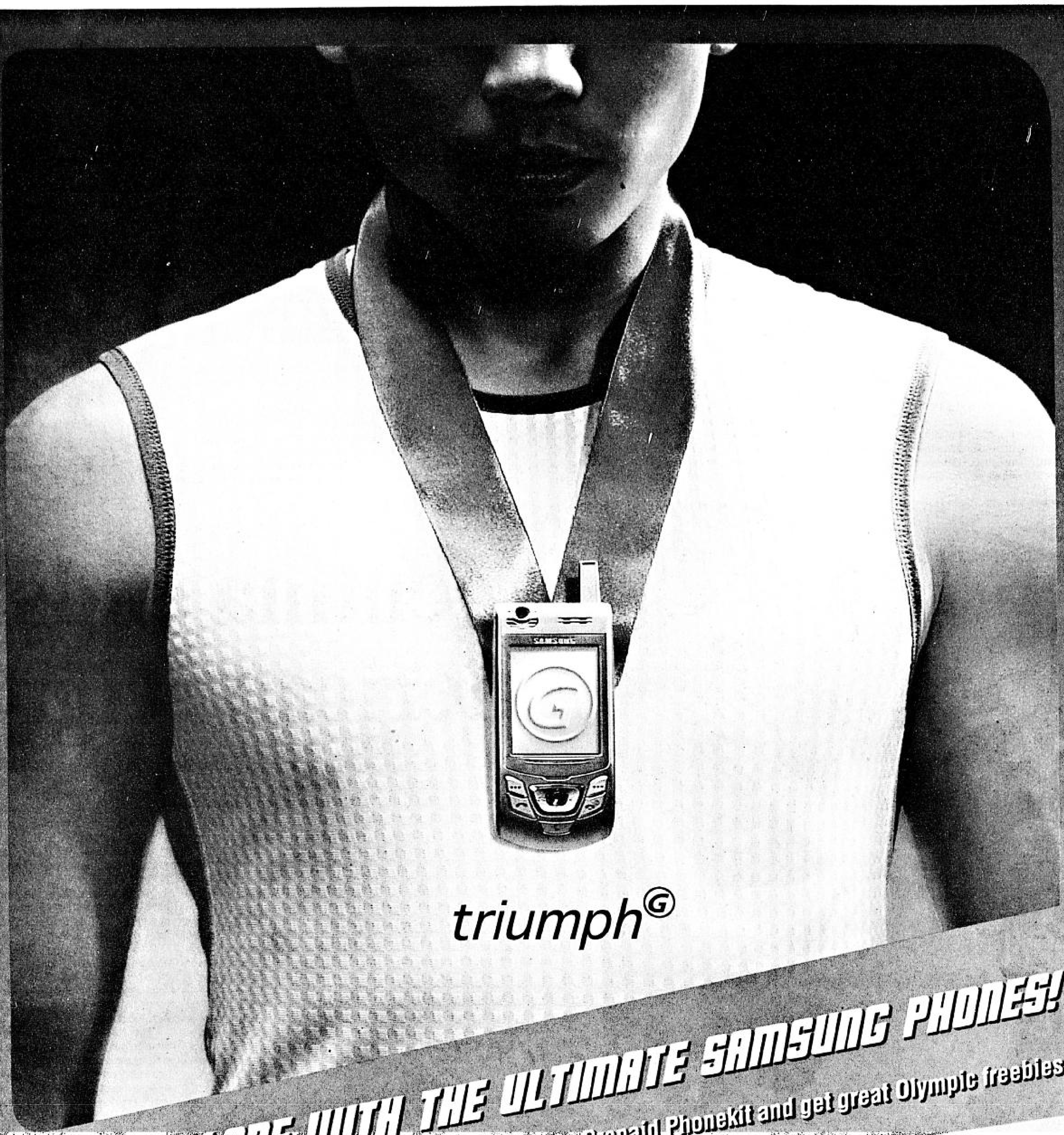

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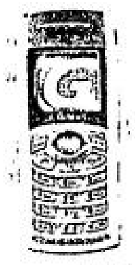

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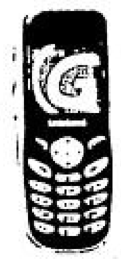

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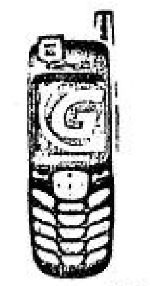

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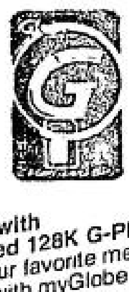

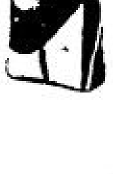

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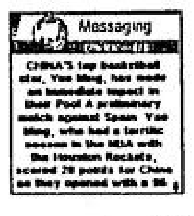

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Alma felt 'sign' a loved one was in trouble Wednesday night

"MY SON was not driving, he was not drunk," insists Alma Moreno.

By Marinel R. Cruz

ALMA Moreno was still under sedation Friday night following her son Vandolph Quizon's car accident last Wednesday.

Alma had been so worried about Vandolph's condition that she started to suffer from high fever and back pains, her secretary, Medi Valderrama, told INQUIRER Entertainment Friday night. Last Thursday, Alma's doctor had decided to give her some sedatives.

Alma had been feeling ill since Wednesday night, according to Valderrama. The actress could not sleep well because of fever, she said.

"She said this was a sign that someone very close to her was in trouble," Valderrama said.

Alma learned of Vandolph's accident early Thursday morning, but she was able to see him only in the afternoon. Mother and son talked until late Thursday evening, Valderrama said.

"My son said he was not driving that night, so I believe him," Alma declared on the GMA 7 news program "24 Oras" Friday afternoon. "Why would he be driving the car when he has a driver to do that for him?"

She also denied talk that Vandolph, her son by comedian Dolphy (real name, Rodolfo Quizon), had been drunk while driving when the accident happened.

She said people were merely trying to hurt Vandolph and his family.

Three years ago, Vandolph was driving a Ford F-150 pickup when he smashed into an eight-wheeler truck in Pangasinan. He suffered serious arm and leg injuries, while his girlfriend and the truck driver died.

Initial police investigation said Vandolph, not his driver Allan Araza, was behind the wheel when the accident happened

ALMA/ A34

VANDOLPH. Two accidents in 3 years

Julie Andrews: I'll never sing that way again

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—"There won't be a singing career again."

With that statement, Julie Andrews dashed hopes that her singing voice, tragically silenced by a botched throat surgery in 1997, is back in its full glory.

Talk of Andrews resuming her musical career was fueled by a scene in her latest film, "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," in which she duets with teen star Raven.

Andrews, pleasant, tactful and regal in bearing that one almost felt like curtsying to her (she is in fact a Dame of the British Empire), was firm when she was asked at a recent press conference if she would sing in public again.

"No, I won't," said the award-winning singer-actress of such classics as "The Sound of Music" and "Mary Poppins," for which she won a best actress Oscar. "I couldn't do a concert. I'll be doing speaking engagements which I do all over the country but sadly, I won't be singing that way again."

The world was robbed of Andrews' sweet, lilting soprano in 1997 when a throat surgery to remove nodes from her vocal chords went horribly wrong. She filed a malpractice suit against the doctors who allegedly botched her surgery. In 2000, she settled the suit for an undisclosed sum, but reports said it was estimated at $30 million.

Greatest voice

The Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement awardee in 2001 quipped to journalists, "If I can, once in a while, give you a rendition of let's say, 'Old Man River' in a way-down bass voice, I would only be too delighted but it would probably be rare and it would be very, very tailor-made."

Only the persistence of director Garry Marshall, who helmed both the original and sequel "The Princess Diaries" movies, convinced Andrews to sing "Your Crowning Glory" with Raven.

Marshall told us, "Julie was very reluctant to sing again. She had the greatest voice in the world. Then she got ill and her throat went this way and that. By coincidence, I heard from her husband (legendary director Blake Edwards) that she was singing a little bit so we talked to her and asked her to sing in 'Princess Diaries 1.' She didn't want to do that. But we almost convinced her.

"When it came to the sequel, we said again, 'How is it (voice) doing?' She said, 'Well, I can sing-talk.' So we had a song written for her (by Lorraine Feather and Larry Grossman).

"We made a pact that if she didn't really like it, we'll just cut it out of the film. When she sang at the rehearsal, I was teary-eyed because to see her sing again was a great thing for me. Then we finally shot and put it in. The scene makes many people happy."

Of the scene, The Hollywood Reporter movie critic Kirk Honeycutt wrote: "The highlight comes when Andrews, triumphing over health problems that affected her vocal chords, sings a delightful duet with young songstress Raven. Bravo."

Singing scene stays

Andrews, who reprises her beloved role as Queen Clarisse Renaldi and grandma of Anne Hathaway (Princess Mia), downplayed the significance of the duet as a sign that she might sing more often.

"DO I miss it?" says Andrews. "Yes, I do. Do I mourn it? Yes, I do."

Replying to a question posed by INQUIRER Entertainment, she declared, "I hope that audiences will not feel that I'm returning after these many years to sing again, because I'm not. I would say that I sing-speak in this movie. Like Rex Harrison sang-spoke. The little song that we do is very carefully crafted to accommodate what I can do, and I start by speaking and I end by passing it on to Raven and a group of children.

"Garry and I both agreed that if it (the duet scene) wasn't appropriate for the film, if it was too late in the film, if it held up the action of the film, if I couldn't sing it properly, it would not happen. And I believed him. I do believe he would have taken it out.

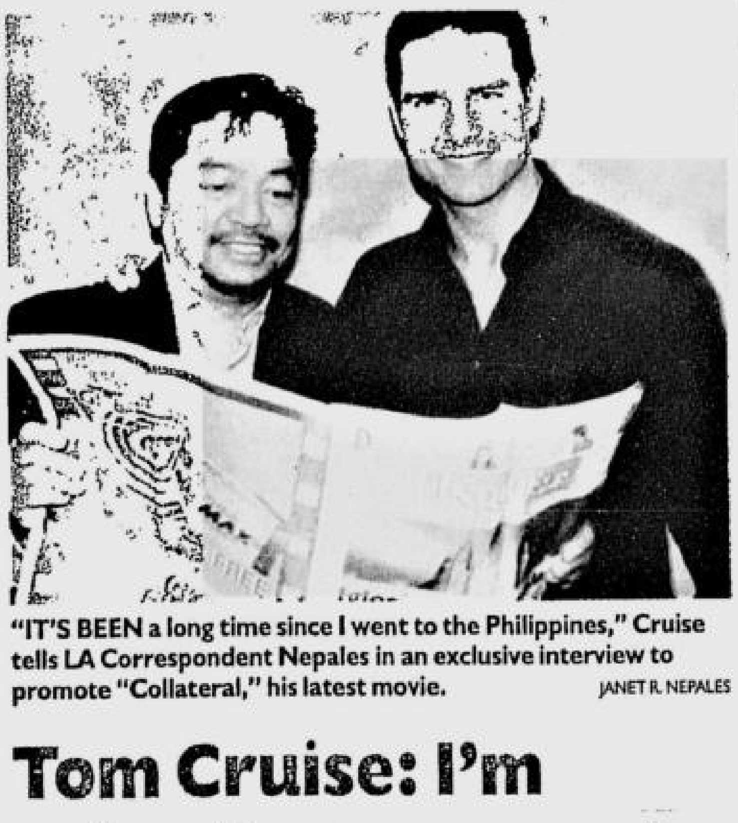
"But the little song was made to accommodate me. It was filmed in such a way that Raven sings it with me. And the happy result is it stayed in the movie."

'TSOM' sing-along

The winner of Oscar, Golden Globe, Emmy and Grammy awards stressed, "But I still cannot really sing. In other words, I still could not sing 'The Sound of Music' or 'I Could Have Danced All Night.' I no longer have that kind of voice and I never will."

When Andrews, whose voice and face are recognized and cherished all over the world, was

JULIE/ A34


"IT'S BEEN a long time since I went to the Philippines," Cruise tells LA Correspondent Nepales in an exclusive interview to promote "Collateral," his latest movie. JANET R. NEPALES

Tom Cruise: I'm going to marry again

/A39

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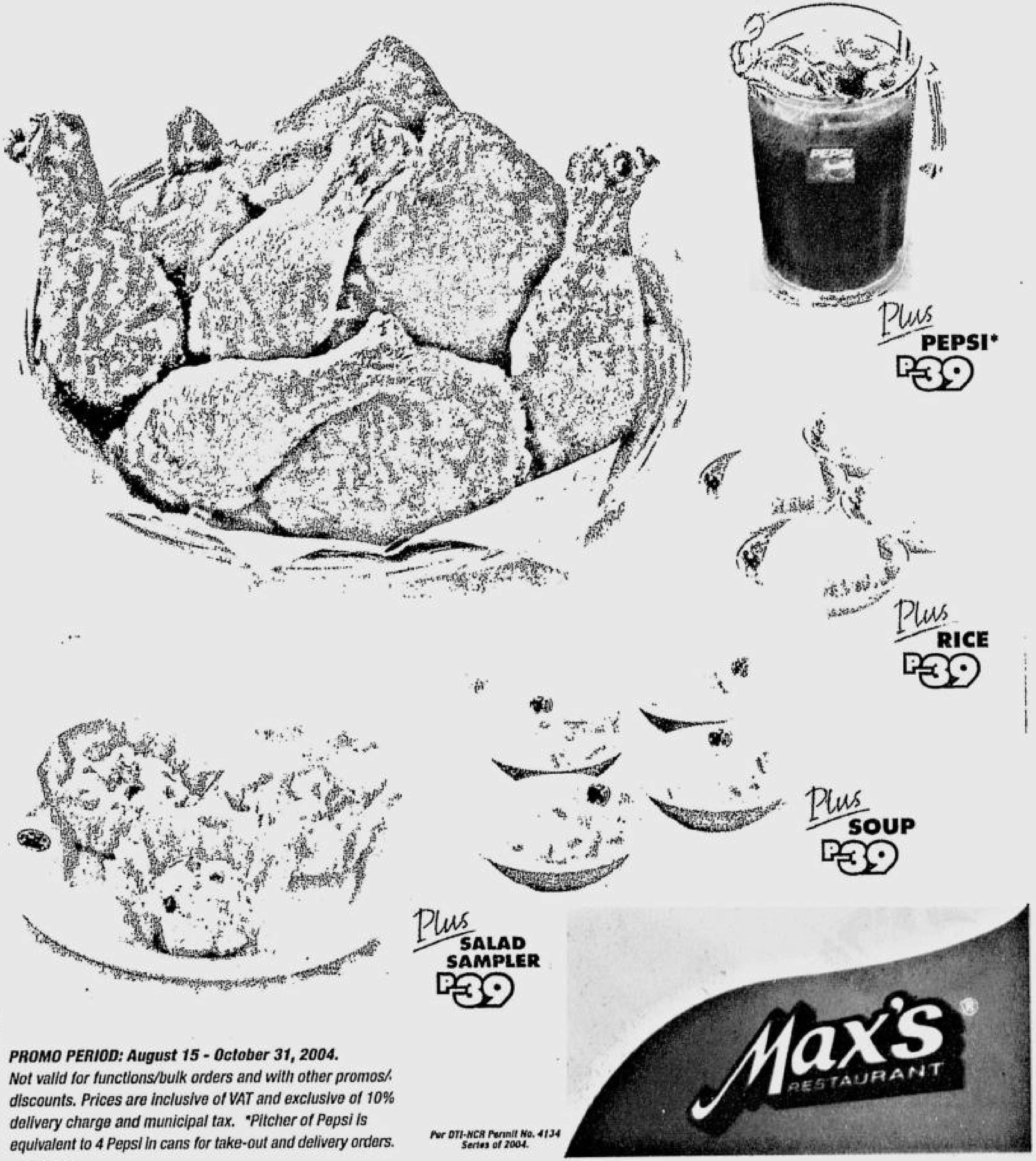

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From reality to fantasy

FOR SEVERAL seasons now, reality TV has made major inroads on local television programming. These days, however, fantasy is staging a comeback that threatens to upstage the heretofore dominant reality shows.

Fantasy is making its biggest impact on the two major channels' primetime *telenovelas*. After some years of topping the ratings, melodramas are starting to lose their hold on viewers, who have gotten tired of the usual intrigue, romantic complications, villainous plots and familial convolutions that characterize the *telenovela*.

Determined to boost their ratings anew, the networks have decided to dance the very light fantastic, and come up with far-out shows like "Marina" (about mermaids) and "Mulawin" (winged creatures).

Now that local *telenovelas* have conquered the ocean and the air, all we need is to launch a series about slithering supersnakes to complete local TV's domination of land, sea and air! And, can outer space be far behind?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

What accounts for the current popularity of fantasy formats on the tube? The way we see it, the networks are cannily tapping into our long-running fascination with the unreal and the bizarre.

This fascination accounts for the undying popularity of the Darnas, Lastikmans and Dyesebels of local pop mythology. Add to them more occasional successes like Zuma, Edong Mapangarap and Silveria the talking horse, and you get a clearer picture of how extensively our fetish for fantasy has spread.

Digging even deeper, our flair for the fantastic harks back to our still festering colonial mentality, which conditions us not to solve our own problems, but to rely on the *deus ex machina* machinations of our colonizer—"gods."

True, it's been centuries since we were first colonized, but those foreign "masters" did such a "great" psychic snow job on us that the negative effects of their psychological scam persist to this day.

We may be officially "free," but we continue to look to our "betters" to solve our problems and to fulfill our fantasies. And that mind-set continues in the mermaids, super-eagles and other fantastic creatures who now inhabit our collective video-stoked subconscious.

Ding, *ang (bigat ng) bato*. Darna!

'Dodgeball' previews

BEN **Stiller**'s new comic starrer, "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," will have sneak previews on Aug. 30 and 31. Stiller plays the owner of Globo Gym, a Southern California vanity super-center whose team joins a high-stakes dodgeball competition, where it is pitted against **Vince Vaughn**'s ragtag crew. The film starts its regular run on Sept. 8.

Grace Chan

ON Sept. 4, Vancouver-based mezzo soprano **Grace Chan** will perform **Heitor Villalobos**' "Bachianas Brasileiras" and pieces especially arranged for an eight-piece celli choir.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. at the Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIBank. It is co-produced by Sinag Arts Studio and will benefit the Tiking Lopez Scholarship Fund, specifically in support of a cello competition and scholarship.

Chan's concert is part of the fifth anniversary activities of Sinag Tala. Call 726-1297.

'Freeway'

SMASH, the Russian pop duo, has made a smashing debut with its album, "Freeway," featuring the carrier single "Talk to Me." The duo, **Sergei Lazarev** and **Vlad Topalov**, have been performing for the past two years, but it was the release of their song "Belle" that boosted their stock in a big way, particularly with female listeners.

Choice cuts in "Freeway" include "The Real Thing," "Should Have Loved You More," "Obsession," "Gonna be Our Night" and "Faith."

Ashlee Simpson

JESSICA **Simpson**'s kid sister, **Ashlee**, is making her own waves in the world of entertainment. Only 19 years old, she's already come out with a self-titled album. The CD has elements of rock, punk and pop.

Ashlee receives co-writing credit in all the tracks including "Piece of Me," which is at No. 2 in Billboard's Mainstream Top 40 radio airplay chart.

Another outstanding track, "Shadow," is about Ashlee's decision to step out of her older sister's shadow to carve her own musical identity.

New films

"HOUSE of Wax 3-D." A group of friends including **Elisha Cuthbert** and **Paris Hilton** fall prey to a pair of murderous brothers. They discover that the brothers have expanded upon the area's main attraction, the House of Wax, and created an entire town filled with the wax-coated corpses of unlucky visitors.

"Before Sunset." Nine years ago, two strangers (**Ethan Hawke, Julie Delphy**) met by chance, spent a night together and parted before sunrise. Now, they're about to cross paths again and get the chance we all wish we had—to find out what might have been. The only problem is, they only have a few hours to do it.

'Will Your Fortune'

GEORGE **Sison** will present another episode of his popular show, "Will Your Fortune... In the Game of Life" on Sunday, Aug. 29, at midnight on GMA-7.

In the episode directed by **Renato Malay**, Sison discusses activities that promote negative situations in our lives, like gossiping, spreading bad news, keeping the wrong company and living our lives based on others' expectations. He also expounds on why some prayers seem to be unanswered.

Sison is the founder of the Temple of Prayer, Peace and Prosperity, an ecumenical and nonsectarian transformational and development center. Call 893-8444.

CNN coverage

CNN International will offer an in-depth coverage of the Republican National Convention from New York City. Beginning Aug. 30, **Jonathan Mann** hosts the coverage of the weeklong convention, along with other experienced CNN political correspondents and anchors.

In addition, anchor **Richard Quest** is traveling around the US to report on how some of the "battleground" states are shaping up, taking the pulse of voters in "American Quest." Check out http://edition.cnn.com/ELECTION/2004.

Alma felt 'sign' a loved one . . .

From page A33

Wednesday night.

Police said the young actor's Expedition bumped a Honda Civic, driven by Vincent Adil, before the Expedition plunged into the pit at a construction site near the corner of Katipunan and Boni Serrano avenues.

Vandolph was with his girlfriend, dancer Jenny Soliman, and three other persons when the accident came. Vandolph suffered minor bruises, police said.

"Ma'am Ness (Alma's nickname) is very thankful that no one was harmed," said Valderrama. "She said she was able to talk with the owner of the Civic yesterday. She was glad that he would not press charges."

According to Nene Riego, Vandolph's talent manager, the actor and his companions had had dinner at Eastwood City in Libis, also in Quezon City.

"Vandolph said they weren't even driving fast," Riego told INQUIRER Entertainment. "The strong rain made visibility near zero."

In November 2001, Vandolph was seriously injured, and his girlfriend, Desiree Raquiza, and a truck driver were killed when Vandolph's pickup smashed into the eight-wheeler truck in Binalonan, Pangasinan.

Julie Andrews: I'll never sing . . .

From page A33

asked to comment on the phenomenon of "The Sound of Music" movie screenings and concerts in which patrons wear costumes and sing along to the soundtrack's memorable songs, she told an anecdote.

"I hear it's something," she began. "I've never been (to a sing-along). But I was told that a young man apparently went to a London sing-along, and he was painted from head to toe in gold. And somebody said, 'Well, what's that got to do with The Sound of Music?' The young man said, 'I'm Ray, a Drop of Golden Sun.'"

Andrews, who voiced Queen Lillian in "Shrek 2," which has become the top-grossing animated film in history, has kept herself busy with straight acting roles, speaking engagements and writing several best-selling children's books under the name Julie Edwards. She will direct a revival of "The Boy Friend," the musical in which she made her Broadway debut in 1954 (model Twiggy played the role in the Ken Russel movie). The show will open in Connecticut and then tour the US.

Missing singing

Listed as one of Great Britain's 10 richest women, Andrews, who turns 69 in October, dotes on her seven grandchildren. She revealed that one of them appears in "Princess Diaries 2." "She's the little girl that gets up and starts the hip-hop, just as I finish singing," she disclosed. "I point to her, and she gets up and starts dancing."

Asked by INQUIRER Entertainment how she came to accept the loss of her singing voice, Andrews answered, "Certainly, for three or four years, I was still hoping and trying to be optimistic about it. It was the only way to deal with it, to be optimistic.

"I'd always sung, all my life. I miss it very much, indeed. It was a gradual acceptance, and then happily, really happily, all these other wonderful things came in instead.

"Do I miss it? Yes, I do. Do I mourn it? Yes, I do.

"Probably, at my age, I wouldn't be singing that much anyway, the thought of which helps a little bit, but I do miss it very much, indeed."

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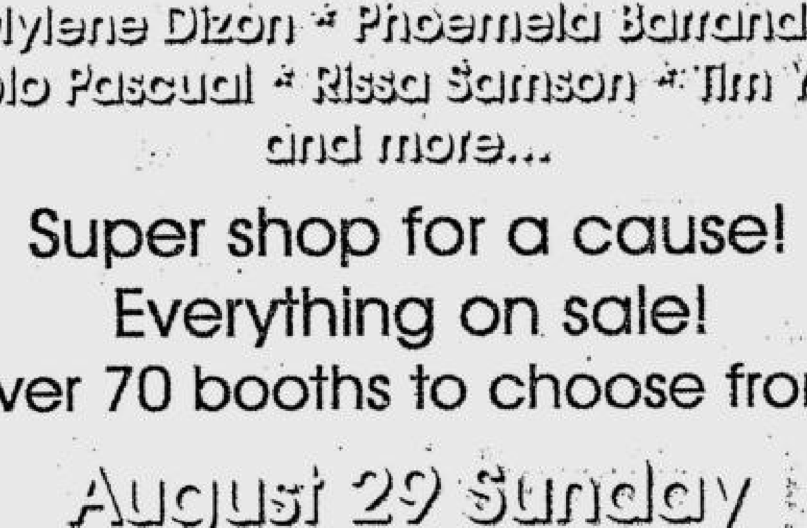

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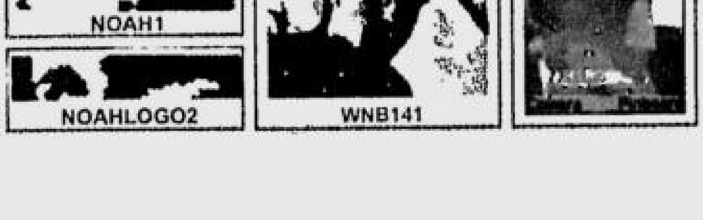

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JOLIE

CONNERY

'Lives,' 'Rose' now on Warner video

ACADEMY Award winners Angelina Jolie (best supporting actress for "Girl Interrupted") and Sean Connery (best supporting actor, "The Untouchables") are featured in Warner Home Video's releases this August: the sexy suspense thriller "Taking Lives" and the medieval mystery "The Name of the Rose."

In "Taking Lives," Jolie is vulnerable FBI profiler Agent Illeana Scott who is invited to Canada by the Montreal police to help them solve a ritualistic murder case. They have a witness and possible suspect, art dealer James Costa (Ethan Hawke), who claims he stumbled upon the murder and saw the killer's face.

In "The Name of the Rose," an adaptation of Umberto Eco's best-seller, Connery is wily William, a sleuthing cleric. Christian Slater plays Adso, his aide. F. Murray Abraham is arrogance incarnate as the Inquisitor.

Director Jean-Jacques Annaud filmed the moody mystery at an actual 12th century monastery.

Expect the finest quality in these latest must-have movies, in DVD or VCD, this August.

DID YOU KNOW...

Actor-director-TV host Eric Quizon, clad in a blue shirt, khaki shorts and a cap, was seen at the Power Plant Mall in Makati City last Tuesday afternoon, with a girl friend. That same afternoon, Richard Gutierrez ("Mulawin") and his twin, Raymond, were also in the same mall, shopping.

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687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11:45, 2:20, 4:55
7:30, 10:20
PG-13

2 STEPFORD WIVES
12:00, 2:10, 4:20
6:30, 8:40, 10:40
GP

3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
12:00, 2:30, 5:00
7:30, 10:20
PG-13

4 DODGE BALL
11:50, 2:00, 4:10
6:20, 8:30, 10:40
GP

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS:12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF: 9:50 pm

2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF: 8:30 pm

3 (DOLBY) A CINDERELLA STORY
GP / FS:11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF: 9:30 pm

4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS:11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF: 8:55 pm

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF: 9:00 pm

SUPER CINERAMA
isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238

1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. ALIEN VS. PREDATO
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 [illegible] NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 [illegible] BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 [illegible] THUNDERBIRDS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

---

movietime
SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1 THE VILLAGE
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 COLLATERAL
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 GARFIELD
12 STEPFORD'S WIVES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 I, ROBOT
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 COLLATERAL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE
11 GARFIELD
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 THE VILLAGE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 COLLATERAL
8 STEPFORD WIVES
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THE VILLAGE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 CINDERELLA STORY
7 THUNDERBIRDS
8 COLLATERAL
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 COLLATERAL
5 THE ALAMO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 GARFIELD

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 CINDERELLA STORY
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763655

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
(046)4173868

1 COLLATERAL
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 THE VILLAGE
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY DASMA
(046) 4323201-04

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876

1 PRAISE AND WORSHIP CONCERT
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE ALAMO
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY ILOILO
(033) 3209422

1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
2 RESERVED
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 GARFIELD
6 THE VILLAGE
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO
(082) 2976998

1 THE VILLAGE
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

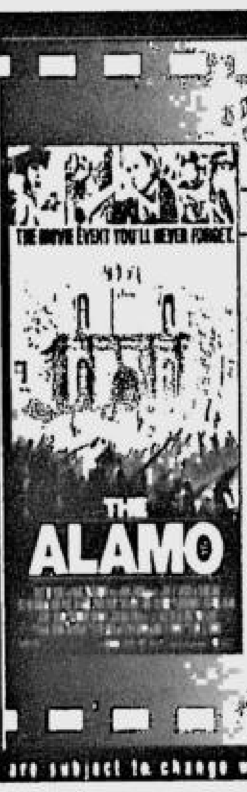
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
THUNDERBIRDS
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10:35 FS/11:05
MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/
7:45/9:25 LFS/
9:55 LMF/11:30 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS


THE MOVIE EVENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.
THE ALAMO

SM CINEMA
Critics' CHOICE
USA

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

THE ALAMO

Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas – held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young, brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

Showing on
SM City Cebu
SM City Pampanga
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules, Dial 833 9999

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7
THE BIGGER PICTURE
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AUSTRIA: On the Other Side of the Bridge
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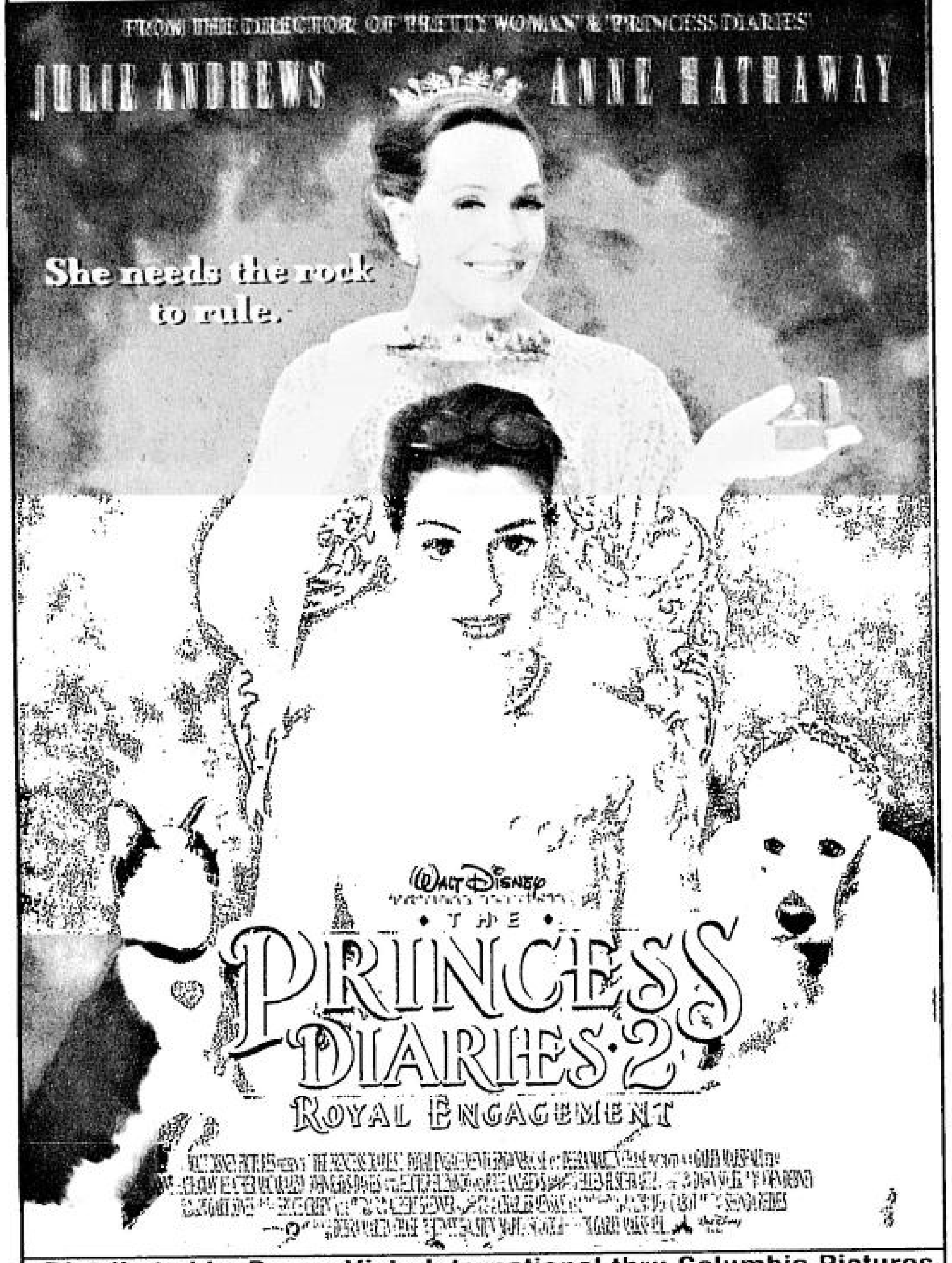
CZECH REPUBLIC: Divided We Fall
FINLAND: Upswing
FRANCE: Les Choristes
GERMANY: Distant Light
ITALY: Il Posto Dell' Anima
NETHERLANDS: The Black Meteor
PORTUGAL: Sweet Nightmare
SPAIN: Los Lunes Al Sol
SWEDEN: Deadline
UK: Young Adam

call MFI at 410 4545
7271915 / 7271961

SM Cinema · The Podium · Air Philippines

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'PRETTY WOMAN' & 'PRINCESS DIARIES'
JULIE ANDREWS
ANNE HATHAWAY
She needs the rock to rule.
Walt Disney
THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING G For General Patronage OPENS SEPT. 1, WED.

THE FIRST EVER REALITY-BASED MOVIE...
EVERYTHING BEGINS AND ENDS IN 30 DAYS!

KAYA MO BA 'TO?

"Two Thumbs Up!" ...Ebert & Roeper

"Funny and Outrageous" ...Owen Gleiberman - Entertainment Weekly

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US COMEDY ARTS FESTIVAL
SXSW FILM FESTIVAL
SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SUPER SIZE ME

Solar Entertainment Corporation

MTRCB RATING PG-13 CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IF ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR ADULT

OPENS SEPT. 1

When you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.
david duchovny
nia vardalos
toni collette
GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE GIRLS
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MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

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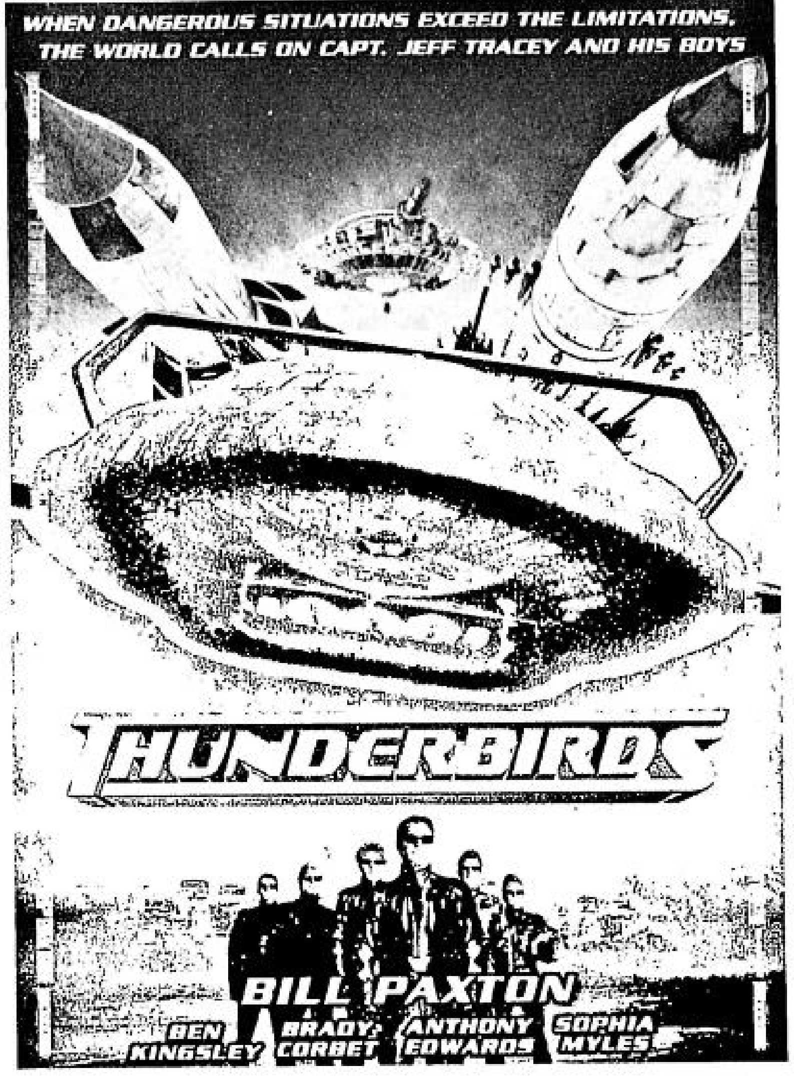

WHEN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS EXCEED THE LIMITATIONS, THE WORLD CALLS ON CAPT. JEFF TRACEY AND HIS BOYS
THUNDERBIRDS
BILL PAXTON
BEN KINGSLEY
BRADY CORBET
ANTHONY EDWARDS
SOPHIA MYLES

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
PRINCESS DIARIES - 2
10:50 , 1:40 , 4:30 , 7:20 , 10:10
GP

CINEMA 2
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20 , 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10
P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM | AUGUST 31 2004 | NOAH'S BIGBOAT | 10AM & 2PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

ALIEN VS. PREDATOR PG13 11:20,1:45, 4:10,6:35,9:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 11:20,1:50,4:20,6:50, 9:20
STEPFORD WIVES PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	THUNDERBIRDS GP 12:30,2:55, 5:20,7:45,10:10	LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
FS 12 50 pm, 3 05 pm, 5 20 pm, 7 35 pm, LMF : 9 50 pm (PG-13)

② PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS 12 00 pm, 2 50 pm, 5 40 pm, LMF 8 30 pm (GP)

③ A CINDERELLA STORY
FS 11 30 am, 1 30 pm, 3 30 pm, 5 30 pm, 7 30 pm, LMF 9 30 pm (GP)

④ THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS 11 55 am, 2 10 pm, 4 25 pm, 6 40 pm LMF : 8 55 pm (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE
PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS . 12.30 pm, 3.20 pm, 6.10 pm, LMF . 9.00 pm (GP)

For more information please call
633-7851 loc. 169 to 172

Shangri-La Plaza

Robinsons search for pop idols

From page A37

than Sept. 19, 2004 at the participating malls' information counters.

A committee will pre-screen the contestants and select six grand finalists per mall.

The grand finals will be held simultaneously on Sept. 26, 4 p.m. in the activity areas of the six participating Robinsons malls.

Each mall will have three winners who will receive cash prizes, gift packs and trophies.

For more details, contact the Ad & Promo Department at 683-6100 local 782 or 780.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 Dolby PRINCESS DIARIES 2
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

4 SDDS ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 dts THUNDERBIRDS
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

6 Dolby LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

7 Dolby NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
OPEN TODAY 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

Sep 11	ATENEO vs FEU
Sep12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep15	JOHN MAXWELL in MANILA
Sep17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND [illegible]

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAMOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 10 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR, STEPFORD WIVES, CINDERELLA STORY, THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	VILLAGE
CINEMA-7	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-14	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

BONNEVIE

Bicol stars in 'Wow' show

AFTER her successful production of "Earthday 2004," Bicolana Lou Bonnevie takes a break as a producer and performs at a free concert-party on Saturday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m., at the Plaza San Ignacio church ruins on Anda Street in Intramuros, Manila.

The concert-party is part of the grand opening of the "Wow Philippines Gayon Fiesta Festival II in Intramuros."

To perform with Lou are Paolo Santos, Medwin Marfil (vocalist of the True Faith band, Meagan Aguilar and other special guests.

Bicol boys Rez Cortez, Niño Muhlach, Bembol Roco, Jimmy Fabregas and other prominent actors and actresses from the Bicol region will also grace the show.

A grand parade takes place at 5 p.m. where participants from Bicolandia will show excerpts of their famous festivals. The event will culminate with the live musical extravaganza.

Admission is free.

Robinsons search for pop idols

ROBINSONS Malls pay tribute to young Filipino talent in its latest activity, "Search for Robinsons Ten Pop Idols."

The competition will be held in six Robinsons malls: Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmalls Pampanga, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Place Dasmariñas until Sept. 19, 2004.

Contestants should be 13-19 years old and residents of the town or city where the participating mall is located, or of nearby areas. They should not be under contract with any recording company.

Interested parties should submit a demo material, in CD or cassette format, and two pop songs, Filipino or English; barangay certificate; photocopy of birth certificate; and two recent photos, one close-up and one full-body shot). Put these requirements in a short brown envelope, together with an accomplished entry form available at the information counter of participating Robinsons malls.

Entries should be submitted not later

ROBINSONS/ A36

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555
Visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER

Annual National Consumor's Quality Award 2003

Family Consumers Choice Award 2003

NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

Cinema	Movie	Times
CINEMA 1 THX	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7.20, 10:00
3	JANDARA	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4	THUNDERBIRDS	10:40, 1.00, 3.15, 5:30, 7.45, 10:00
5	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10 20, 12 40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10 00
7	A CINDERELLA STORY	
8	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
9	THE STEPFORD WIVES	10 45, 1 00, 3:15, 5 30, 7:45, 10:00
10	THE VILLAGE	12.40, 3 00, 5 20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
2	JANDARA	10:40, 12:55, 3.10, 5:25, 7.40, 9:50
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10.10, 12 30, 2.50, 5:10, 7 30, 9.50
4	THE STEPFORD WIVES	
5	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10 30, 12.45, 3:00, 5 15, 7:30, 9:50
7	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1 30, 3 50, 6 10, 8 20, 10 00

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2	THUNDERBIRDS	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 2 00, 4:40, 7.20, 9:55
4	THE VILLAGE	10.50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6.50, 9:00
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:55, 2.35, 5:15, 7.55, 10:30
6	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10.50, 12.50, 2 50, 4:50, 6.50, 8.45, 10 30
7	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10.50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 9 00
8	HAMOG	10:50, 12 50, 2 50, 4.50, 6:50, 9.00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW

935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00
3	THUNDERBIRDS	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30
4	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	10 15, 12 45, 3:15, 5:45, 8 30
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	11:20, 1.30, 3 40, 5.50, 8.00
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11:00, 1:20, 3.40, 6:00, 8:30
7	HAMOG	10.15, 12:25, 2:35, 4.45, 6:55, 9:00
8	THE VILLAGE	11.20, 1:40, 4.00, 6.20, 8.40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 HAMOG	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 ETRNAL SUNSHINE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 HAMOG	3 MANO-MANO 3
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
		5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 GARFIELD	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 MAKAMUNDO
3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 MAKAMUNDO	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 THE VILLAGE
2 HAMOG	2 GARFIELD	2 GARFIELD
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	3 THE VILLAGE	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 DEAD PEOPLE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	6 MAKAMUNDO	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

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AT THE CENTER

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
LAGUNA EXPO August 25 to 31, 2004	DISCOVERY KIDDIE INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT August 26 to 29, 2004	TV ESKWELA (August 29, 12noon-3pm) CULTURAL EVENT (August 29, 4 6pm)

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES from Thursday to Saturday (7-10pm) featuring Jaycie & Honey (Thu), Kitchie Nadal (Fri) Acoustic Jive (Sat)	MERK'S: For inquiries, e-mail: mail@merksbarbistro.com or visit website: www.merksbarbistro.com

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August 7 to December 12

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AYALA CINEMAS

	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THX PRINCESS DIARIES 2	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12 35, 2 40, 4 45, 6 50, 8 55, 11 00	THUNDERBIRDS
2	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	THE STEPFORD WIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS THX PRINCESS DIARIES 2 12 50, 3 15, 5:40, 8 05, 10 30	THE VILLAGE
3	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12 30, 2 50, 4 30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30	GUARANTEED SEATS PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 40, 4 05, 6.30, 8 55, 11:20	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4	THUNDERBIRDS	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	THUNDERBIRDS	GUARANTEED SEATS THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30	DIRTY DANCING 2
5	THE STEPFORD WIVES		A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20 9 25, 11 30	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6			PRINCESS DIARIES 2		
7			THE VILLAGE		

GB1 GREENBELT 1		
1	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	12 00, 2.25, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 35, 3 40, 5 45, 7 50, 9 55

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August 30 & 31

GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
DodgeBall
a TRUE underdog story

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

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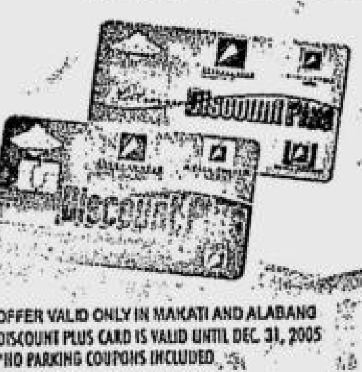

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Globe
The REP Children's Theatre Musical Production of
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based on the book by Carlo Collodi
Music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy
Directed by Joy Virata
Choreographed by Jaime del Prado
Pinocchio
August 7 - 10 30 am
15 - 2 30 pm
September 11 - 10 30 am
10 - 2 30 pm
Greenbelt 1
Paseo de Roxas
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AYALA MALLS
LoveMall!

Rockin' even in the rain

RAIN DANCE. Wet but undaunted, people party on in the rain on the Shangri-La Mall driveway while Rockin' Revival (right) performs.

THE ROCKIN' Revival band can make you literally kick off your shoes and dance barefoot, even in the pouring rain.

That's exactly what happened last Saturday, Aug. 21, on the driveway of Edsa Shangri-La Mall, now known as "Streetscape." Even the heavy downpour couldn't stop the crowd from rocking to the '50s, '60s and '70s music of Rockin' Revival. People danced, wet but undaunted by the rain.

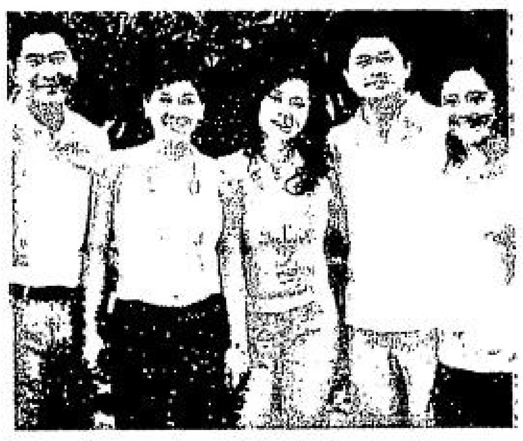
In 1986, the Rockin' Revival had its debut at Bistro RJ on Pasay Road. The band was then under the leadership of the late Eddie Nicolas, older brother of present bandleader Sonny.

Rockin' Revival today includes original members like Sonny Nicolas, bandleader and lead guitar player, and Tony Huelves on rhythm guitar and percussion. They are now joined by Butch Sabater on keyboards and synthesizer, Percy Benitez on drums, Rolly Roldan on bass, Boy Mendez on lead vocals, and the only female, Cathy Castañeda.

Since 2001, the band has been managed by Yoli Celdran.

Every Thursday for the past two and a half years, Hotel Intercon's Le Boulevardier has been packed with people enjoying the music of Rockin' Revival.

This September, watch Rockin' Revival on Tuesdays at Chef and Brewer at Ortigas Center, Wednesdays at Conway's at Shangri-La Makati, and Thursdays at the Le Boulevardier at the Intercon.



BELO (middle) with "Magandang Umaga Bayan" co-hosts (from left) Erwin Tulfo, Bernadette Sembrano, Julius Babao and Tintin Bersola

Doctora Vicki joins 'MUB'

SHOW TIME

DR. VICKI Belo is the newest member of the ABS-CBN family.

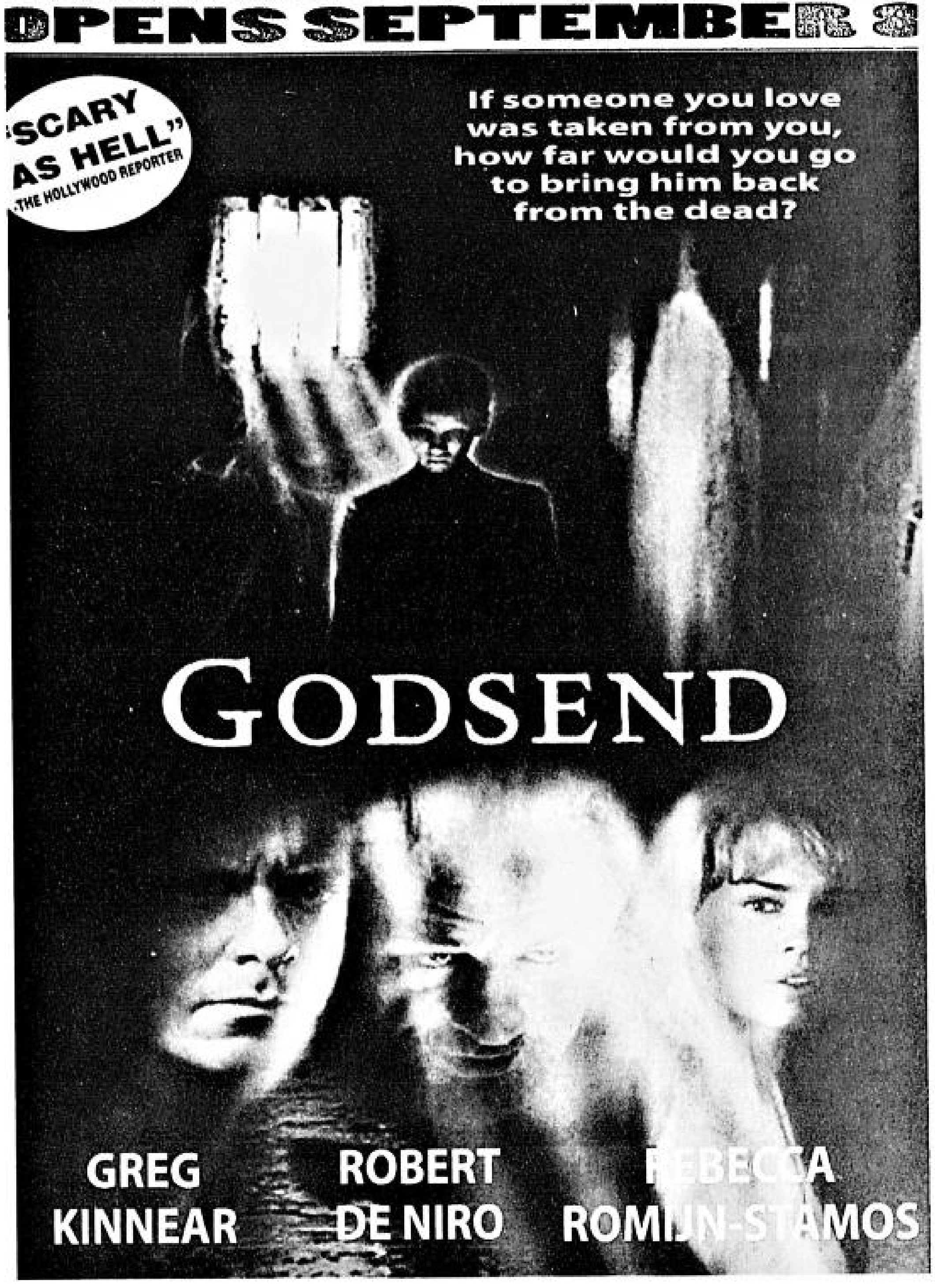
Belo joins the morning program "Magandang Umaga Bayan" with a segment called "Beauty-hin Misis." In the segment, the doctor takes on the role of fairy godmother, granting Cinderella-like housewives the chance to fulfill their beauty fantasies.

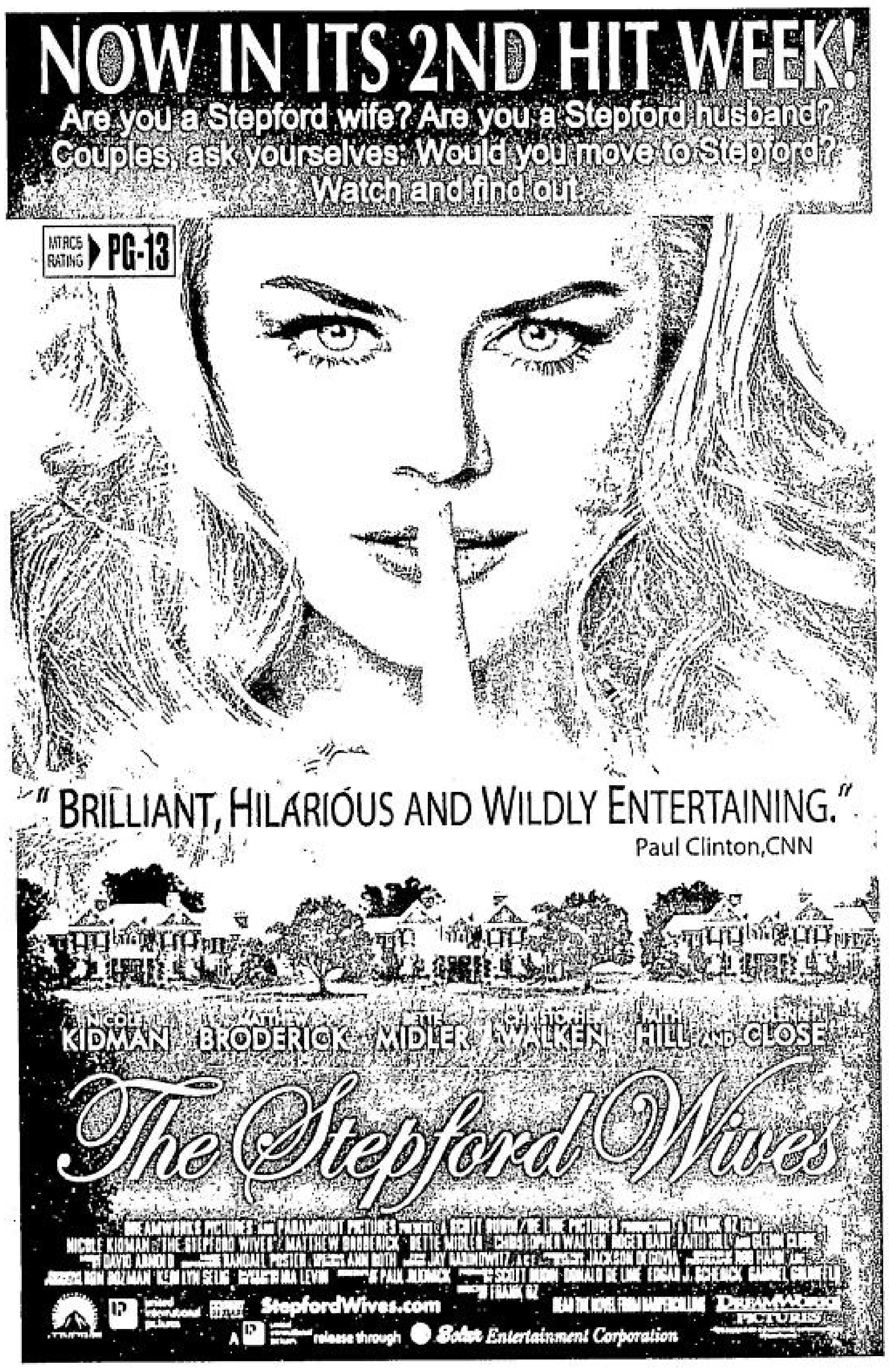
"Beauty-hin Misis" has been running for three weeks. In that short time, it has already attracted more than 200 letter senders from all over the Philippines.

In its first week, the segment selected a breast cancer patient who was pampered before she started chemotherapy.

"Magandang Umaga Bayan" airs every morning, 5:30 to 8:30 a.m., on Channel 2 and on ANC. The "Beauty-hin Misis" segment is shown every Thursday.

For inquiries, please call the Belo Medical Group Marketing Department at 810-9637, or e-mail info@belomed.com.


OPENS SEPTEMBER 8
"SCARY AS HELL"
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
If someone you love was taken from you, how far would you go to bring him back from the dead?
GODSEND
GREG KINNEAR
ROBERT DE NIRO
REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS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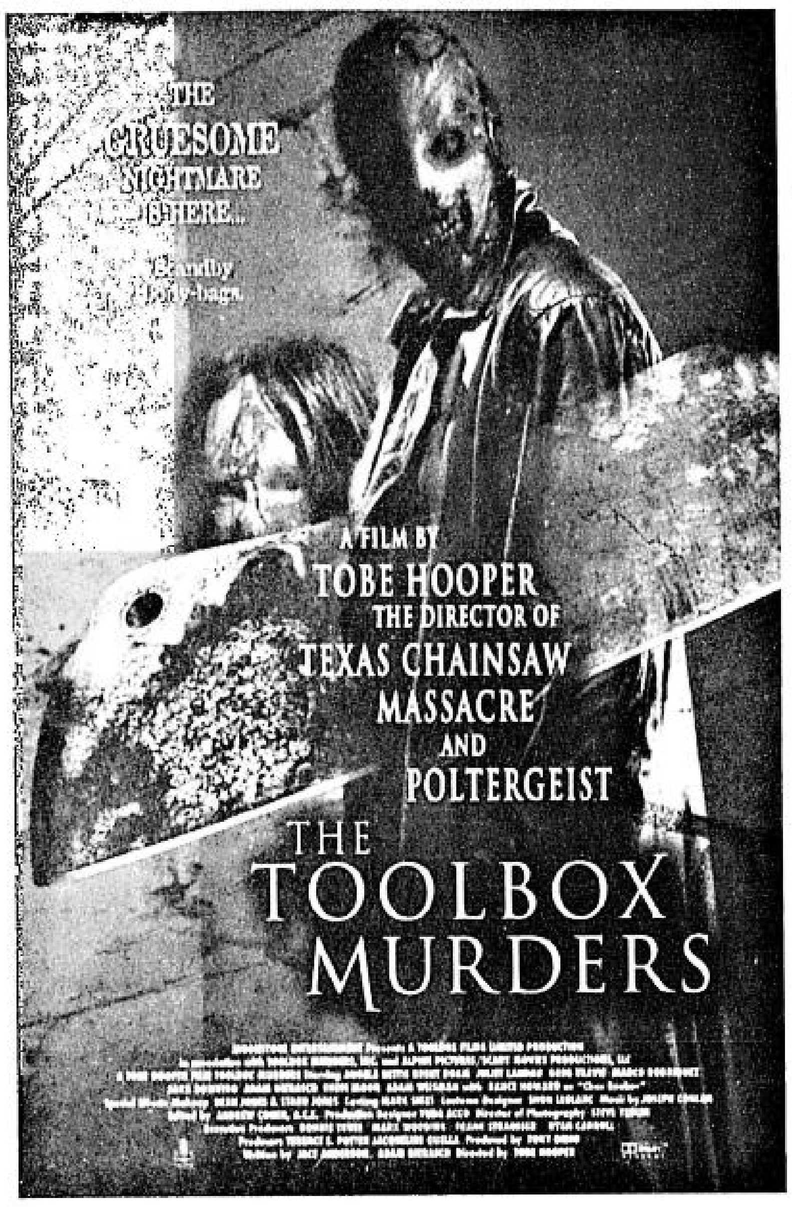
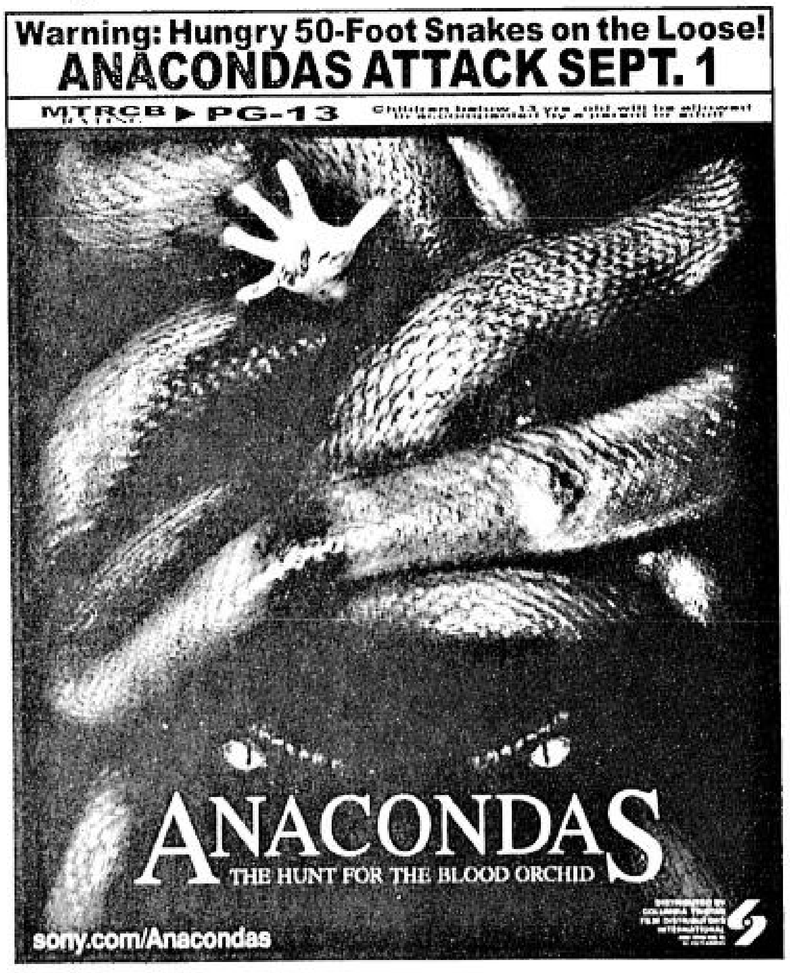
Are you a Stepford wife? Are you a Stepford husband? Couples, ask yourselves: Would you move to Stepford? Watch and find out.
MTRCB RATING PG-13
"BRILLIANT, HILARIOUS AND WILDLY ENTERTAINING."
Paul Clinton, CNN
KIDMAN BRODERICK MIDLER WALKEN HILL AND CLOSE
The Stepford Wives
StepfordWives.com
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation


THE GRUESOME NIGHTMARE IS HERE...
A FILM BY TOBE HOOPER
THE DIRECTOR OF TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE AND POLTERGEIST
THE TOOLBOX MURDERS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ANACONDAS
THE HUNT FOR THE BLOOD ORCHID
sony.com/Anacondas

Life is waiting.
Tom Hanks
Catherine Zeta-Jones
The Terminal
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

MTRCB PG-13
WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
NOW SHOWING

COLD-BLOODED in "Collateral" with Jamie Foxx

'I want someone who's honest, whom I can trust, who's caring, has a great sense of humor'

HOT HUNK again, with becoming short hair, in interview with the author JANET R. NEPALES

Tom Cruise: I'm going to marry again

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

TOM Cruise sealed our handshake by saying "It's been a long time since I went to the Philippines," during our recent interview with him for his latest movie, "Collateral."

Cruise's hair is completely gray in this movie and it becomes him. There's more character in that face. But at the St. Regis Hotel, his hair was back to its real color and styled short, almost like his "Top Gun" cut.

In "Collateral," Tom gives his finest performance and best movie in years. Shooting with a high-definition digital video camera, director Michael Mann shows the gritty beauty of our second home, LA (Manila will always be home to us). Downtown LA's skyscrapers have never been shot like this—in a slow, seductive aerial pan.

Tom plays a cold-blooded hit man who hops onto a cab driven by Jamie Foxx for a night of killing. Jamie holds his own against Tom but we are betting that the former will have his own moment in the spotlight soon. He plays the recently departed Ray Charles in a coming biopic. From what we've seen of the trailer of "Ray," Jamie *is* Ray.

Jamie told us that Ray "saw" the movie before he passed away.

Jamie, known for giving the most swinging parties and for his smooth ways with women, paid Tom the ultimate compliment.

He shared with us what he told Tom: "I said, 'I know this sounds very weird, but even in 'Mission Impossible 2,' when you were hanging on the rocks, even dudes in the audience were going, This dude is really cute. For you to have those looks and still work hard, still shake my hand, still engage my sister and kiss her on the cheek, still be nice, you don't understand how that throws people off.'

"We're taken aback by that because our whole culture is about who looks the best. When you come in and it seems so effortless, you're going to have all these things thrown at you."

Friendly with Nic

Ladies, including those in Manila who harbor dreams of being the one to get Tom back into a married status, here are his words for you to consider: "I'm very friendly with Nic (Nicole Kidman to you, if you've been hibernating in the Cordilleras all this time). In terms of a woman in the future, I want to have fun. I enjoy relationships. I'm a guy who's going to get married again. I really love that kind of friendship and intimacy.

"I want someone who's honest, whom I can trust, who's caring, fun. She's got to have a great sense of humor and doesn't mind having a little adventure. I like riding motorcycles and flying airplanes. I want someone who's going to enjoy the things that I enjoy."

So girls, start practicing by riding those motorbikes and private jets.

When Tom said, "The last thing I would ever do is talk to a psychiatrist" in reply to a question if he went to a shrink to research on the mind of a professional killer, our colleague asked him to elaborate on the statement. We got a long lecture from Tom on the evils of psychiatry.

"Being a Scientologist," he said, "I do have tools to be able to handle life." He advised against psychiatry, calling it "junk science," "an esoteric cult," "disgusting" and "a lot of propaganda."

Next time, we'll remember to ask him only about lovely Nic.

Grand premiere

DreamWorks' premiere party for "Collateral" was grand even by Hollywood's standards. The premiere was fittingly held in downtown LA since it is the film's setting. A whole block of Broadway Avenue (think Avenida) was blocked off to traffic so they can roll out the red carpet and set up bleachers for the fans.

The screening was held at the Orpheum Theater (again, think about those old movie theaters on Avenida, only grander), the completely restored art deco 1920s movie palace where the likes of Ogie Alcasid, Vina Morales, Carol Banawa and Aga Muhlach have given concerts. The guests trooped to a huge parking lot in the back, which was emptied of cars and transformed overnight into party central with tents, lounge areas, bars and buffet tables.

"Collateral" co-star Jada Pinkett Smith, in a red dress with dazzling bling-bling of a necklace at the press con, switched to a white gown and held court at one of the tents.

Interesting sight: Muhammad Ali and Diana Ross cuddling for the paparazzi.

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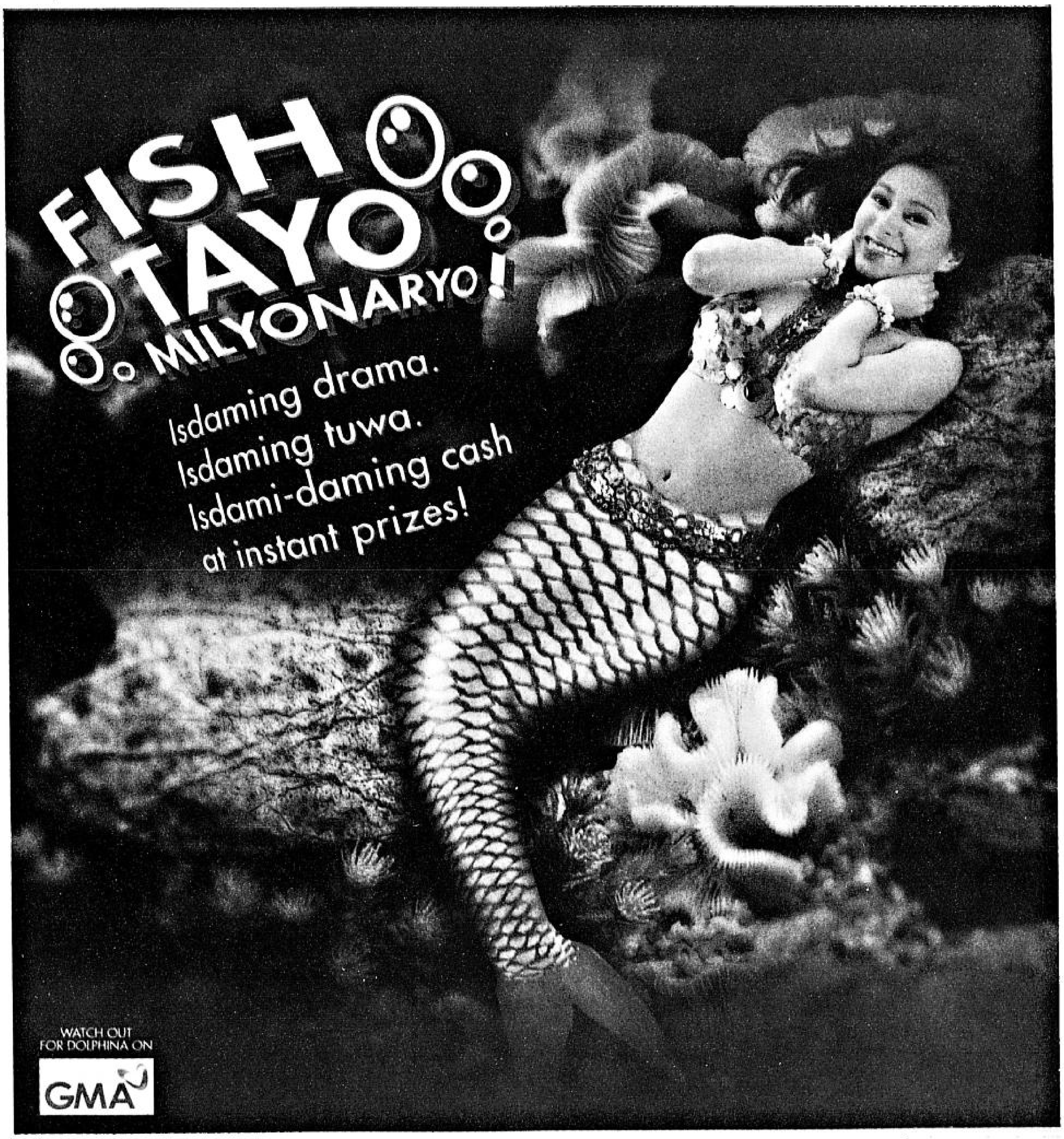
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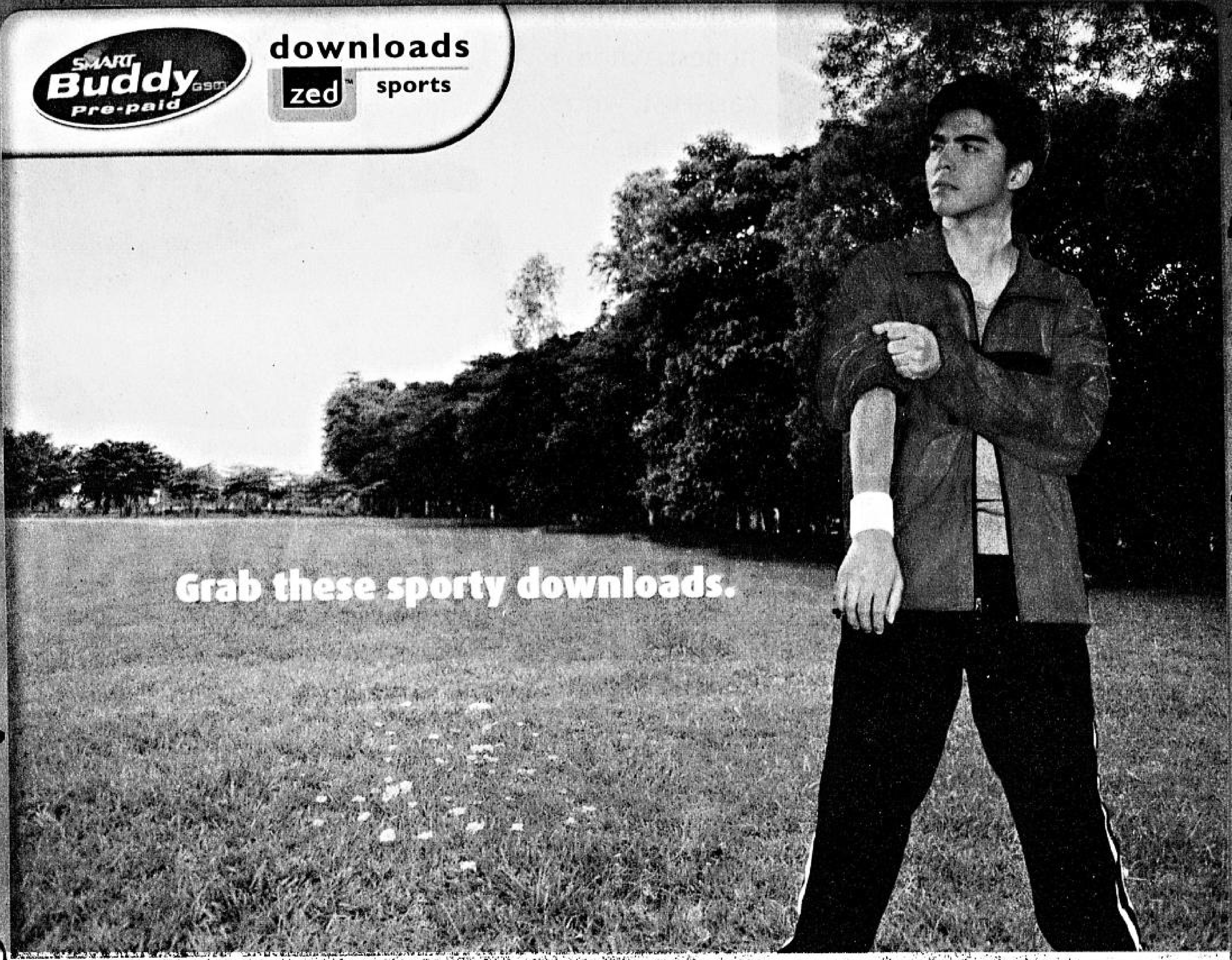
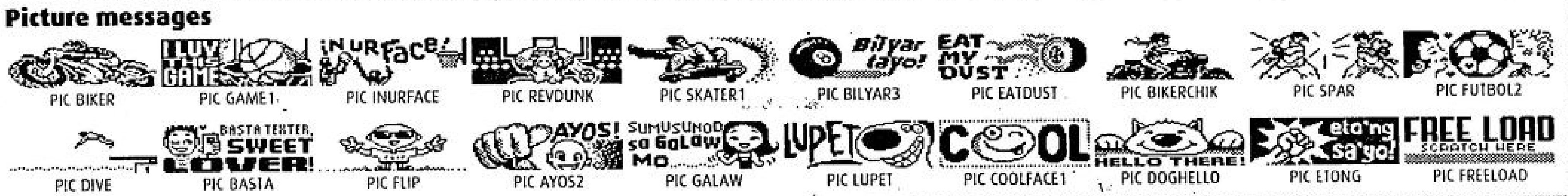


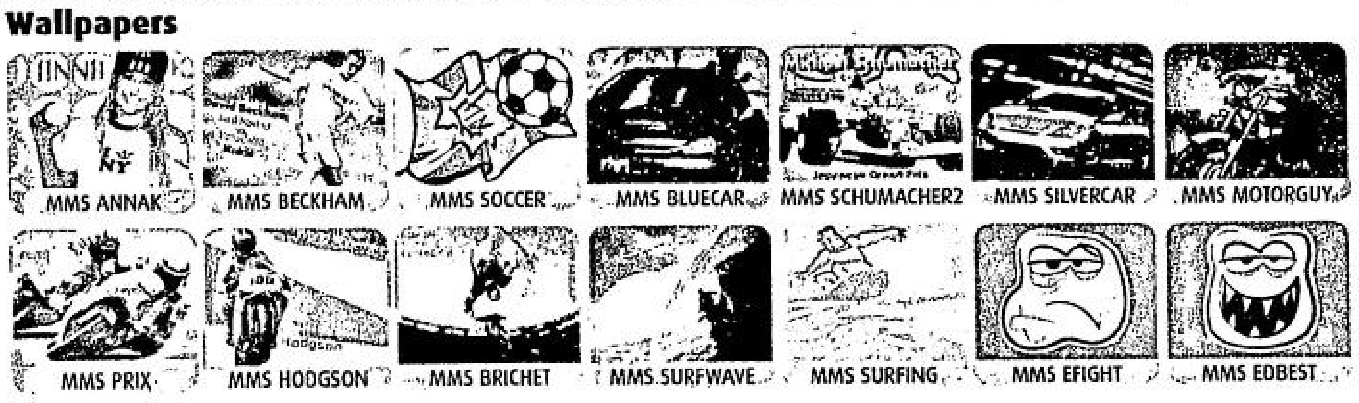
Picture messages



PIC BIKER, PIC GAME1, PIC INURFACE, PIC REVDUNK, PIC SKATER1, PIC BILYAR3, PIC EATDUST, PIC BIKERCHIK, PIC SPAR, PIC FUTBOL2

PIC DIVE, PIC BASTA, PIC FLIP, PIC AYOS2, PIC GALAW, PIC LUPET, PIC COOLFACE1, PIC DOGHELLO, PIC ETONG, PIC FREELOAD

Wallpapers



MMS ANNAK, MMS BECKHAM, MMS SOCCER, MMS BLUECAR, MMS SCHUMACHER2, MMS SILVERCAR, MMS MOTORGUY

MMS PRIX, MMS HODGSON, MMS BRICHET, MMS SURFWAVE, MMS SURFING, MMS EFIGHT, MMS EDBEST

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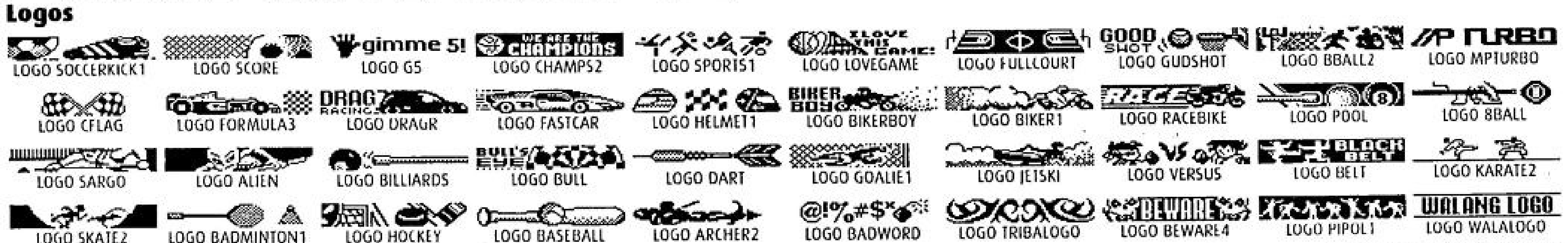

LOGO SOCCERKICK1, LOGO SCORE, LOGO G5, LOGO CHAMPS2, LOGO SPORTS1, LOGO LOVEGAME, LOGO FULLCOURT, LOGO GUDSHOT, LOGO BBALL2, LOGO MPTURBO

LOGO CFLAG, LOGO FORMULA3, LOGO DRAGR, LOGO FASTCAR, LOGO HELMET1, LOGO BIKERBOY, LOGO BIKER1, LOGO RACEBIKE, LOGO POOL, LOGO 8BALL

LOGO SARGO, LOGO ALIEN, LOGO BILLIARDS, LOGO BULL, LOGO DART, LOGO GOALIE1, LOGO JETSKI, LOGO VERSUS, LOGO BELT, LOGO KARATE2

LOGO SKATE2, LOGO BADMINTON1, LOGO HOCKEY, LOGO BASEBALL, LOGO ARCHER2, LOGO BADWORD, LOGO TRIBALOGO, LOGO BEWARE4, LOGO PIPOL1, LOGO WALALOGO

P.O.W.

PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD
Wacky Logos	POWWACK
Logos	POWLOGO
Girl Logos	POWGAL
Guy Logos	POWGUY
Pic Message	POWPIC
Mono Ringtones	POWTONE
Poly Ringtones	POWPOLY
OPM Ringtones	POWOPM
Rock Ringtones	POWROCK
Wallpaper	POWMMS

Send keyword to **288**

Mono tones

Song Title	Artist/Composer	Tone Keywords
Fighter	*Christina Aguilera*	**TONE FIGHTER**
All Rise	*Blue*	**TONE ALLRISE**
We Are The Champions	*Queen*	**TONE CHAMPIONS**
Doesn't Really Matter	*Janet Jackson*	**TONE DOESNMA**
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	**TONE GETBUSY**
Hey Ya	*Outkast*	**TONE HEYYA**
Hero	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE HERO**
I'll Never Leave You	*Lumidee*	**TONE NEVERLEAVE**
Sunrise	*Simply Red*	**TONE SUNRISE**
Toxic	*Britney Spears*	**TONE TOXIC**
Noypi	*Bamboo*	**TONE NOYPI**
No Letting Go	*Wayne Wonder*	**TONE NOLET**
Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE LETSGET**
Praise You	*Fatboy Slim*	**TONE PRAISEU**
Rock Your Body	*Justin Timberlake*	**TONE ROCKYOUR**
Fly Away	*Lenny Kravitz*	**TONE FLYAWAY**
Bring Me Back To Life	*Evanescence*	**TONE BRINGME**
Breaking The Habit	*Linkin Park*	**TONE BREAKHABIT**
Got To Get Through This	*Daniel Beddingfield*	**TONE GOTTAGET**
Under Pressure	*Queen*	**TONE UNDERP**

Poly tones

Song Title	Artist/Composer	Poly Keyword
Can't Hold Us Down	*Christina Aguilera*	**POLY CANTHOLD**
We Are The Champions	*Queen*	**POLY CHAMPIONS**
Outrageous	*Britney Spears*	**POLY OUTRAGEOUS**
Hey Ya	*Outkast*	**POLY HEYYA**
Hero	*Enrique Iglesias*	**POLY HERO**
Out Is Through	*Alanis Morissette*	**POLY OUTIS**
Toxic	*Britney Spears*	**POLY TOXIC**
Try	*Nelly Furtado*	**POLY TRY**
Like I Love You	*Justin Timberlake*	**POLY LIKEI**
YMCA	*Village People*	**POLY YMCA**
Fly Away	*Lenny Kravitz*	**POLY FLYAWAY**
Breaking The Habit	*Linkin Park*	**POLY BREAKHABIT**
Got To Get Through This	*Daniel Beddingfield*	**POLY GOTTAGET**
We Will Rock You	*Queen*	**POLY ROCKYOU**
Alive & Kicking	*Simple Minds*	**POLY ALIVEN**
Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**POLY WERISLUV**
Bigger Than My Body	*John Mayer*	**POLY BIGGER**
I'm Shakin'	*Rooney*	**POLY IMSHAKIN**
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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Sunday BIZ

COLLEGE graduation from the Ateneo de Manila. Joji was among the first five female students of the school.

Taipan's lucky charm learned to negotiate in the 'palengke'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

JOSEPHINE Gotianun-Yap today

THE GOTIANUNS: Andrew and Mercedes with children Andrew, Josephine, Jonathan and Michael

HER DAD'S luck changed when she was born.

Thus she was termed his lucky charm. Josephine Gotianun-Yap, president of Filinvest Dev't. Corp. is the only daughter of taipan Andrew and Mercedes Gotianun. She has three brothers.

Her dad had a series of unsuccessful businesses until he started the Filinvest Credit Corp., a financing firm that provided loans for the purchase of second hand cars. It was set up almost at the same time that Jojie was born. That was in the '50s and all cars were imported as there was no local manufacturing yet.

Gotianun's grandfather was into copra trading in Cebu. His father was into inter-island shipping but when he died the business closed and the taipan moved to Manila with his mother and sister-in-law's family (his brother had passed away).

FIRST JOB

He finished school at San Beda College and later on married Mercedes. He went into several businesses including selling air conditioning units for a year but it was the financing business which did well. Its original name was Filipinas Investment and Finance Corp.

When Joji was born, they lived in the upper part of a house and the office was downstairs.

"I was very much exposed to business. Like many start-up businesses, our family lived on top of our first office—as a child I used to help out. My jobs ranged from sticking stamps in the envelopes, acting as a messenger, bringing papers to the different staff from my mom, counting coins for the cashier, and doing new accounts teller work in my teens," recalls Joji.

The financing firm paved the way for the setting up of the Family Bank (now the BPI Family Bank, sold by the Gotianuns to the Ayalas in the '80s). The Gotianuns also expanded to real estate, which is their main business today. The Gotianuns, via its Filinvest Dev't. has been developing more than 200 héctare property in Alabang. They have commercial and residential projects in the area. These include the Festival Supermall, the Northgate Cyberzone, Palms Country Club, Westgate and soon South Central which is going to be the Divisoria of the South. In the '90s they set up the East West Bank.

Although her parents were very hands-on in their businesses, Joji says they were always home for dinner. And it was at the dinner table where she learned most of her business know-how. "Our real business education came from being privy to all the informal business discussions over the dinner table and observing first hand the decision making processes of my parents."

She describes her father as the visionary and her mother as the operations person. Her mother just happened to get involved in the business when one day they had no cashier, so her dad asked her mom to man the cash. She has not left since. Both parents and her three brothers are still active in the business.

"My parents are my guiding light in business. Both of them have different strengths. My father has a macro view of things and from him I learned how to step back, and not be overwhelmed by the demands of day to day operations, and assess the direction of the business and economy.

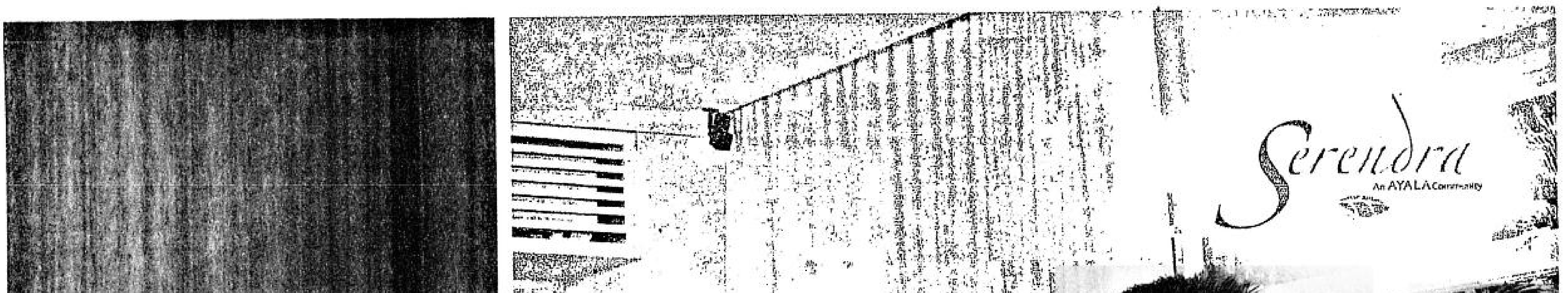
From my mother, being the consummate implementor or organizer, I learned an appreciation for details and the importance of organization and systems in the business."

Joji says her first lessons in negotiations were learned when her mother asked her to do the marketing "at the *palengke* as a child and there I learned my first lessons in negotiation from her and I continue to learn up to now."

She and husband, Joseph, still do the marketing—with their different tenants in Alabang—PriceSmart, Shopwise and Save More.

Joji belonged to the first five women students of the Ateneo de Manila. The experience, she says, was quite an "ego booster." To catch up on some of her credits, she studied during summers. And lest she enjoyed school too much, "I decided to immediately proceed to get my MBA at the University of Chicago before my social life got in the way."

TAIPAN'S/ B2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Used to be that mealtimes were occasions for the family to gather round not just for sustenance but also to talk, bond, and nurture each other. But that was before urban sprawl pulled them apart, physically and emotionally.

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Shoemaker's grandaughter takes steps to revive industry

WHEN Doyee Tactacan-Tumpalan was in grade school, summer breaks were spent not lounging around the pool or hieing off to some sunny destination.

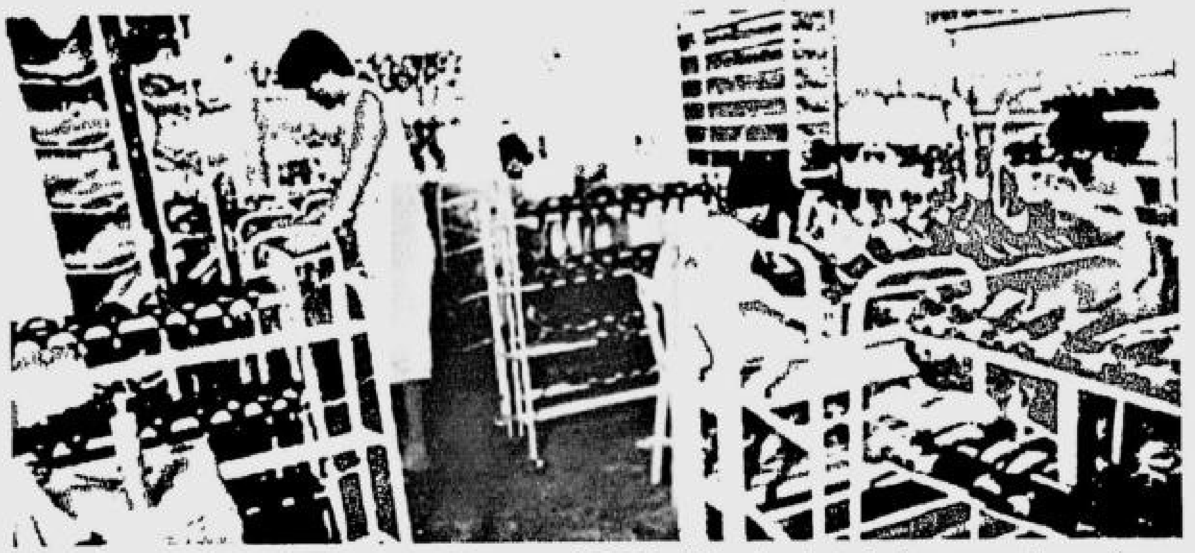
Summers for her and her sisters meant one thing—working at their parents' shoe factory in Marikina.

"We would clean and put shoes in the boxes. By the time we reached high school, we were already handling major jobs in the factory. We would deliver shoes, talk to clients and help our dad book orders," the 34-year-old Doyee recalls.

Doyee and her elders lived, breathed and slept shoes.

Her great-great grandfather was Don Laureano Guevara (a.k.a. Kapitan Moy), the man credited with single-handedly establishing the shoe industry in Marikina.

DOYEE Tactacan-Tumpalan


SINCE the influx of cheap shoes from China, some 1,500 Marikina shoe factories have ceased operations and more than 20,000 shoemakers have lost their jobs.

Trying other fields

Doyee wanted to try out other fields, which explained her decision to take up Communication Arts in college.

But in the end, she still found herself trekking the path to *shoebiz.*

Resigned to the fact that the shoe business was going to be her life, Doyee found herself back in the all too-familiar surroundings that she grew up in, but this time at the helm of making major decisions both in manufacturing, operations and marketing of their family-owned show brand.

Dying industry

But her timing was not all that auspicious.

While Marikina was, for the greater part of the 20th century, the biggest manufacturer of quality shoes both in the Philippines and the world, the shoe industry was slowly but surely gasping for breath.

"There was a time when Marikina's shoes and handbags took Fifth Avenue in New York by storm. Shoes were labeled "Made in Marikina, Philippines" and people abroad would grab them. That's how good our products were," recalls Doyee.

Marikina's history as the shoe capital of the country speaks for itself.

A De La Salle University study noted that as early as 1935, Marikina already had 139 shops producing 260,078 pairs of ladies' shoes and 86,692 pairs of men's shoes worth P762,896.

Around that time, about 2,450 Marikina residents were directly engaged in the industry either as shoemakers or "upper" makers.

By 1983, Marikina produced 70 percent of the shoe production of the Philippines, which was estimated at 30 million pairs.

The Marikina industry has gone through its ups and downs.

There would always be problems—like the unequal partnership with the Chinese traders in the '30s, the war in the '40s, competition from Liliw and Biñan, Laguna in the '50s and political instability in the '80s.

But always, the concerted efforts of the locals managed to revive the industry each time it went through trials.

But with the onset of import liberalization in the late '80s and globalization in '90s, the industry seemed to have used the last of its nine lives.

"The Asian economic crisis was the beginning of the end. Shoes from China and Vietnam would be sold as low as P50. Many Marikina factories could not compete so they just closed shop. About 1,500 have ceased operations and more than 20, 000 shoemakers have lost their jobs," Doyee explains.

Emergency measures

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando tried to help breathe life into the industry by exposing Marikina-made shoes to international expositions and trade fairs.

At the expense of the local government, these exposures were aimed at regaining for Marikina the top-of-mind consciousness it used to enjoy in the international shoe market.

But Doyee realized it wasn't enough.

"We realized that there was a market. Maybe the market felt a bit nostalgic that Marikina—then—meant quality when it comes to shoes. But still, this was not enough to support the industry. Competition was killing us," Doyee laments.

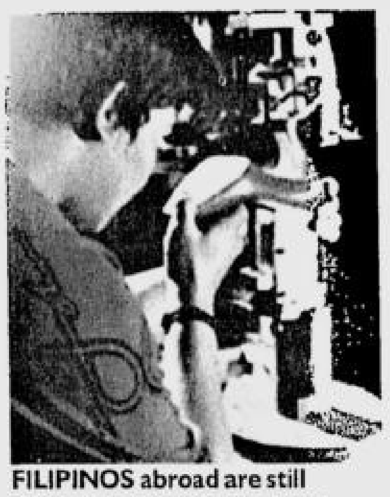
New marketing arm

In January 2002, Doyee and her husband Soc gambled and thought of taking matters in their own hands, by putting up First Quadrant Philippines Inc.

It was to be the shoe industry's "unofficial marketing arm" initially, with the mandate to sell Marikina-made shoes and other Philippine-made products, through its distributors under the multi-level marketing scheme.

"We wanted to help not only our family business but the entire industry as well. People had been talking about revitalizing the industry but if I would be the only one who will survive, that won't do. We have to co-exist and remove crab mentality from our mindset. The world is so small, we can't work on our own," she says.

Initially inviting four friends who are also in the industry (with the brands Fred Perry, Valentino, Meg's, Newport and her own Doyee shoes), this entrepreneur now provides income to more than 10,000 people in 350 shoe factories representing 45 brands that supply and fill up the First Quadrant catalogue.


FILIPINOS abroad are still looking for Marikina-made shoes.

Some of the brands are Fila, Loft, Bristol, Sherbrooke, Antonio Roque, Four Seasons, Rosanna Peña, Margay, Florsheim and Newport.

There are about 2,500 items on the catalogue, majority of which are shoes in all shapes, sizes and styles.

Last year alone, First Quadrant's 480,000 distributors sold two million pairs of Marikina-made shoes, breathing new life into the industry.

Doyee recently added apparel, bags, personal care and home accessories to the growing list of 100 percent Philippine-made products just waiting to be distributed.

Recently, First Quadrant inaugurated its first overseas branch in Milpitas, California upon the invitation of its Fil-Am Mayor Joe Esteves, and a distributor-owned center in Hong Kong. Distribution networks are also expanding in Italy, Ireland, Dubai and in Greece.

But what made her think people in the US or in Italy buy Philippine-made shoes?

"Before we opened the California office, we undertook a study and the response was overwhelming. There were many Filipinos who were looking for Marikina-made shoes. We wouldn't have pursued to open the US branch if we didn't think it would work," explains Doyee.

The same is true with the Hong Kong center, which was put up by a Chinese boss recruited by his Filipina domestic helper.

Big potentials

The enterprising boss saw the potentials of the largely Filipino market and decided to cash in on this.

Doyee didn't imagine that her idea would catch on.

Initially aiming to provide jobs to the shoe craftsmen of Marikina, she unwittingly gave opportunities to all sorts of people wanting to earn an honest keep.

"There are still a lot to do to revive the shoe industry. Marketing, which is what we are doing, is just one aspect. New technologies, new designs, modern systems, the development of raw materials are all needed to increase efficiency.

"But right now, marketing the best of what we already have seems to be the answer. So long as we in the industry are cooperating to make it work—again—we are off to a good new beginning," Doyee says.

Ilonggos making headway in furniture

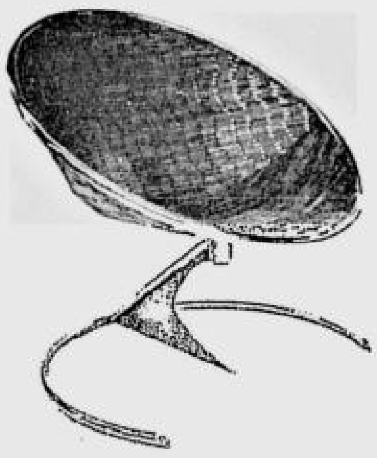
By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggo furniture makers used to have a hard time selling their products because they were not as known for the craft as the neighboring Cebuanos.

Thus, they improved their designs, cashed in on the area's abundant bamboo and learned from their competitors.

Now the Ilonggo furniture makers are the toast of the furniture world.

"We are being noticed. We are like a woman with two suitors," said Gemma Lee, president of Iloilo Furniture Makers Association (Ifma), referring to offers to join two grand expositions, simultaneously held on Feb. 28 to March 3 next year. One will be held in Cebu and the other, in Manila.


WOODEN chair framed by stainless steel made by Passad.

The annual expositions bring together furniture and houseware makers and designers to meet buyers here and abroad.

Sales could run up millions of dollars and orders would continue rolling out of fax machines long after the shows.

Nicolas De Lange of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) said last year's Philippine International Furniture Show booked P7.38 million in orders, of which P5.79 were furniture.

Next year's show promises to showcase the best of Filipino designs, something that China, known for its volume production, would have a hard time competing against.

The target markets are buyers from countries with "growing economies" to expand the existing network of buyers like Spain, United States and Japan.

Lee said Ifma has only nine members. These are new players who took more risks than the earlier generation of furniture makers who stuck it out with wood carved sofas and mass produced bamboo living room sets.

Lee, who also sits on the CFIP board, said Ifma has yet to decide which exposition to join.

But they expect loyal buyers will be waiting to snap up their furniture pieces that mix wood with bamboo and wrought iron.

One of the fledgling group's members is Jason Coo, a one-time rice miller in Pototan town, who used to rely on a good harvest to have enough funds for the rest of the year.

Prompted by the need to earn more, he decided in 2001 to go into the furniture business.

Bamboo was his first material since it grew abundantly in his property. This he mixed with

ILONGGOS/B3

Move over bar codes, here come radio tags

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOVE over bar code, make way for radio tags.

The ubiquitous lines and numbers on the packages of consumer goods may soon give way to a new technology that is seen to revolutionize supply chain management and end-users' shopping.

ECR Philippines—an independent group of manufacturers, retailers and banks—is pushing for the adoption of radio frequency identification for products.

ECR stands for efficient consumer response, which means working together to fulfill consumer wishes better, faster and at less cost.

Manuel Fong, ECRP co-chair and managing director of Supervalue Inc., says the group aims to do away with costs that result from wrong determination of demand, activities that add no value to products, and inefficiencies in supply chain.

Fong, whose company runs the SM Supermarket chain, says what drives ERCP was "a strong and sustainable industry forged by 'farm-to-fork' collaboration among trading partners."

Marie C. Franco, process excellence manager of Johnson & Johnson, says the new RFID technology would push production and consumption to a new level the way bar codes did to the local market a decade ago.

The RFID involves tags that transmit radio signals about the products, and readers that pick up the signals which are converted to data through computers.

"This would increase efficiency in the supply chain, reduce data entry error, and free workers to do other functions," Franco says.

This is possible since RFID allowed tracking, measuring and administration of inventory in the most advanced manner, she adds.

However, she says the technology was still expensive and that there was no critical mass yet for widespread use to take off.

"What is needed is for some big firms like multinationals to start its use and if they are successful, others would follow suit. We hope to see this in the Philippines in about two years."

Taipan's lucky. . .

From page B1

She finished graduate school at 21.

Her father immediately hired her. She lists her career as having two parts—banking and finance and rest estate.

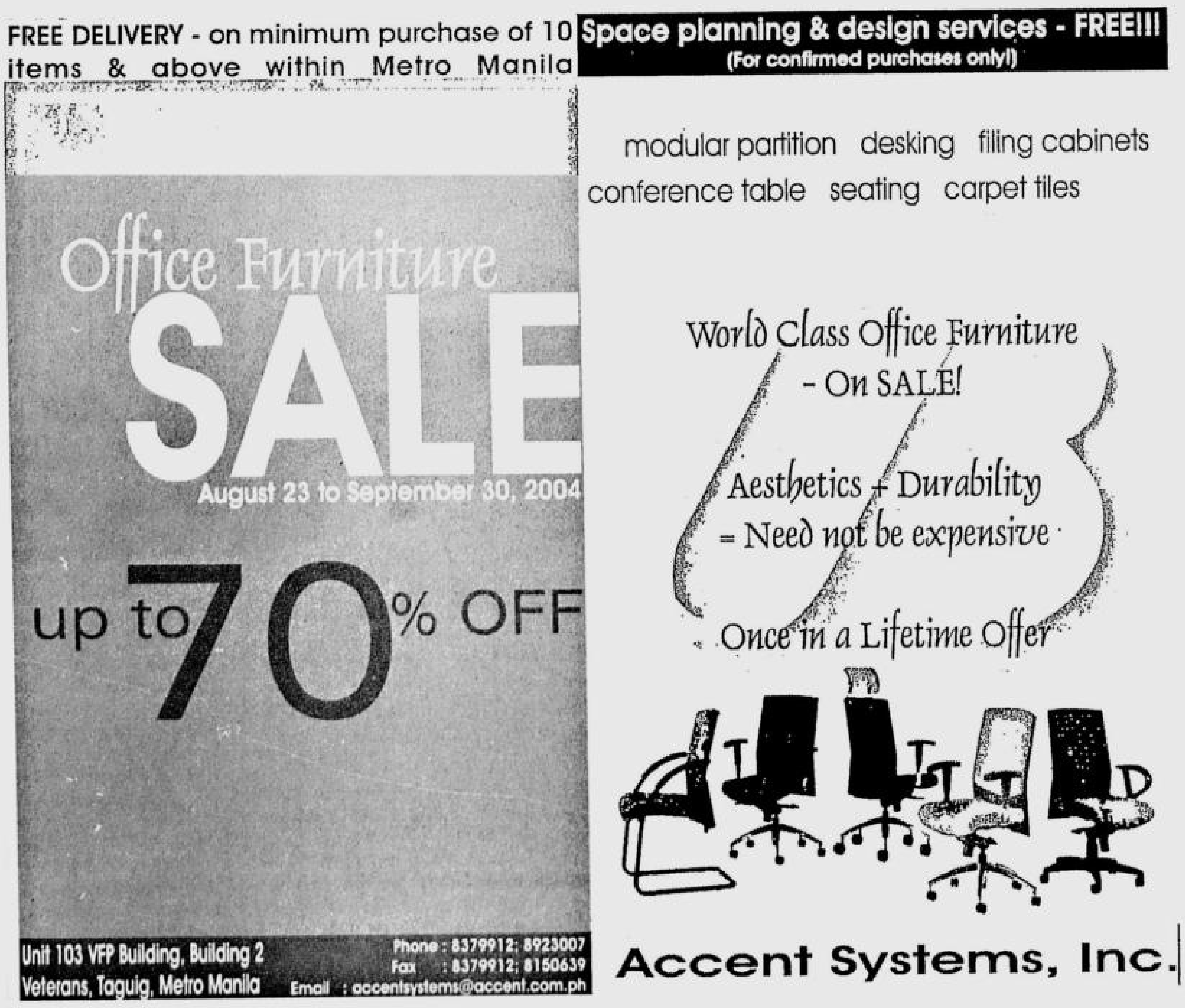
"My finance and banking background help a great deal in real estate as it provides a balance between the go-go world of real estate and the financial prudence inherent to bankers," she says.

Joji says it was elder brother Andrew who "taught me my ABC's in residential real estate. Now I am more involved in commercial, office and high rise residential side of property development."

Like all companies in the Philippines, Filinvest went through ups and downs too. Joji says in her 30 years in business, the country encountered three major setbacks—when there was negative growth: the Aquino assassination aftermath when interest rates shot up to 50 percent; the 1989 coup attempt that rocked Makati and the Asian financial crisis.

"Each crisis brought its own set of difficulties but we overcame them by meeting the problems head on and just working at it till they were solved. Our challenges were overcome because we have a dependable team both among the family as well as our colleagues at work. During times of crisis, the strength you find in being able to share and solve your difficulties together with a strong team cannot be replaced. We can never discount the power of Divine Providence in overcoming our challenges," says Joji.

An important lesson she learned from her parents by their example is balancing family and business. "We spent all our weekends and family dinner with my parents when we were growing up. They were always there for us and whatever energy they had left from working so hard was given to the family and business time was never at the expense of family time. I am extremely lucky that my husband shares the same commitment to family life and together we share the joys and pressures of being around for the kids when they need us," she states.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Thriving business called weddings

INSPITE of the economic crunch, not to mention, the rise in broken marriages, weddings will never run out of style.

A random check with several churches in Metro Manila shows that they have bookings of up to one year in advance. The same is true of hotels and restaurants.

A good number of budding entrepreneurs have cashed in on this business called marriage.

With the help of events management companies like Themes and Motifs, these entrepreneurs have created a niche market as small and medium enterprises.

Managed by marketing executives who have years of experience in product management and marketing services, Themes and Motifs—The Special Events Co. translates the discipline of the corporate world to weddings, debuts, product launches, press conferences and other occasions.

The firm was set up in July 1999. After mounting highly successful special events and coordinating functions for various corporations as a marketing services professional, Sharon Parreño-Fabian, Themes & Motifs' General Manager, with husband, Dodjie, decided to professionalize and turn her craft and skill into a business enterprise.

T&M's organizes Wedding Expo Philippines—a display of products and services with the participation of more than 160 wedding suppliers for all sorts of wedding needs; and a source of ideas to make each wedding ceremony and reception unique and memorable.

While other wedding fairs have wedding gowns for their main focus, Wedding Expo Philippines at the NBC Tent on Sept. 4 to 5 offers wedding ideas for the soon-to-be couples.

It was at Wedding Expo Philippines that the use of fireworks at a wedding reception was introduced. Now, they will be giving a glimpse of how to enhance the romantic atmosphere with the use of laser lights, and an illuminated dance floor.

One very interesting highlight is the launch of Wedding Expo Philippines' Bridal Registry Online, a first here in the Philippines., making it easier and more convenient for the couples' prospective guests to get their gifts, even for their relatives and friends who may be out of the country.

Also, the soon-to-weds can get a lot of 'out-of-the-box' stylish ideas which are captured in photos to be exhibited during this event, like a wedding reception at a fast food chain or a wedding bus instead of a wedding car, bright yellow-colored bridal car instead of the usual white.

Florist for the rich and the famous, Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers & Event Styling, will showcase fresh ideas on flower arrangement as the Official Event stylist of Wedding Expo Philippines. Fabulous banquet set-ups will be presented by the country's leading and budding caterers.

A honeymoon to Boracay and other prizes during the hourly raffle draws await the soon-to-weds, as well as exclusive discounts, special giveaways, and other unique promos. Admission is free for soon-to-weds and their guests who will register online at www.themesnmotifs.com. Major sponsor Equitable Card will provide exciting credit card offers, and Del Monte Recipe Sauce will giveaway recipe booklets, memory keepers and product samples. For inquiries, call 371 -9783, 410-0032.

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Ilonggos

From page B2

wrought iron to make unique pieces.

Thus was born Tribal Trends, which specializes in Zen-like furniture sets.

Today, container vans roll out of his factory in Pototan every month, which sail for shops in Lebanon, France, Italy, Turkey, United States, Belgium and Spain.

From 12 workers in 2001, Tribal Trends now has more than a hundred employees.'

Lee's own "Passad," which means found in Hiligaynon, was a foundry transformed into a furniture and houseware shop.

Like Coo, she gets orders from Europe and United States and shops that are delighted about her avant-garde pieces like silver-spine globes assembled from small wooden rectangles.

Ifma members hire professional designers to update their product look, keeping them in step with the calm, relaxed and not-too-complicated lifestyle the buyers want to achieve.

Ifma, however, is better known abroad than in Iloilo since most of the products are sold abroad.

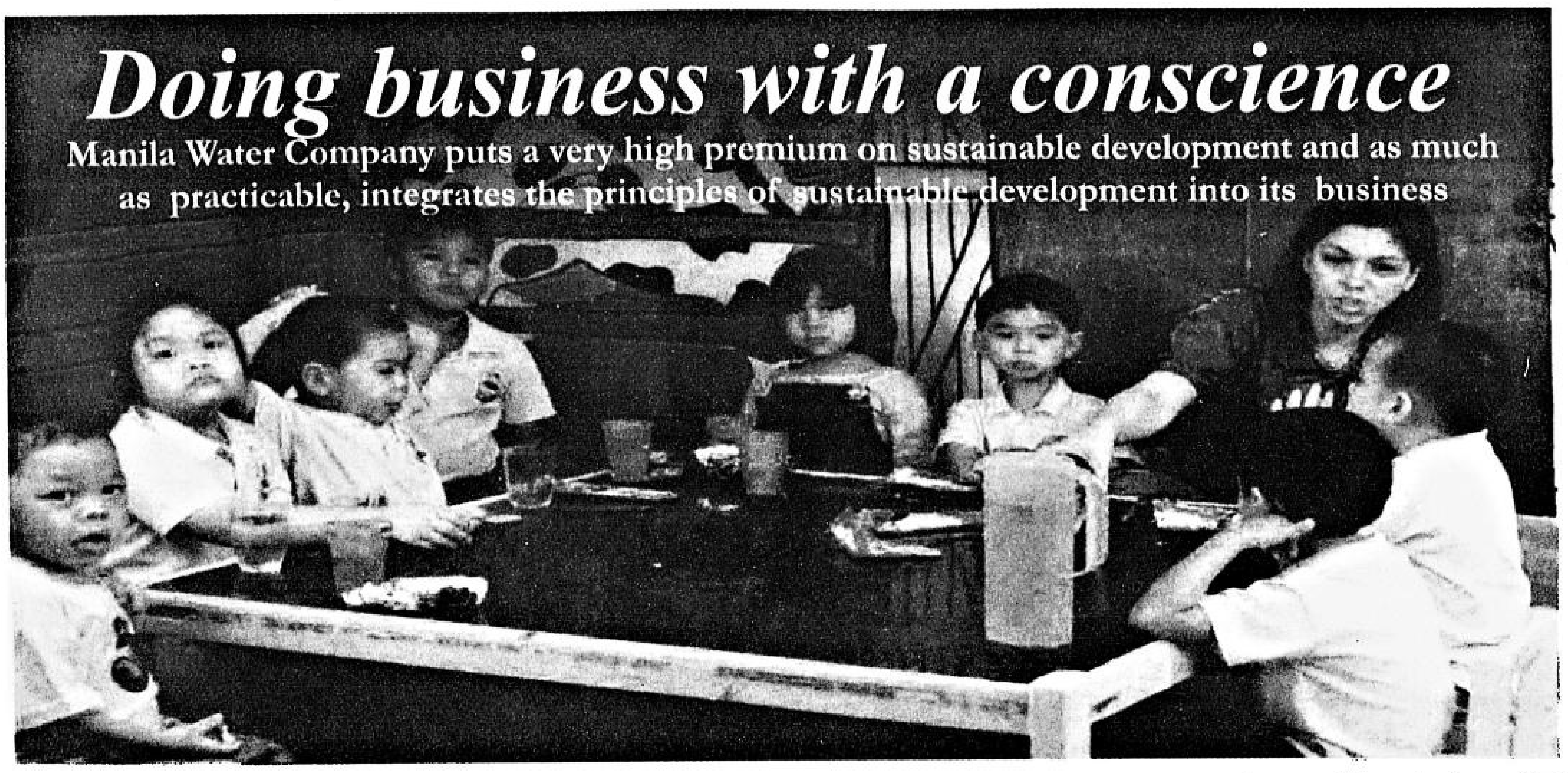
They do not even sell their prototypes, B-class or rejects to local shops.

Aware of criticism against them, Ifma members said it would join a local trade exhibit in November to acquaint local buyers with their work.

It was about time that Ifma products make their presence felt in Iloilo, where most middle-class houses are still stuck with cushioned sofas done in faux leather.

Doing business with a conscience

Manila Water Company puts a very high premium on sustainable development and as much as practicable, integrates the principles of sustainable development into its business



Manila Water leads the cause for sustainable development

High atop the mountain range of San Mateo, Rizal, about 40 kilometers from Metro Manila, is the Wawa Dam. In the early 1900s, the Wawa River and its tributaries used to provide drinking water to the citizens of Manila. Abandoned in the 1930s, the Wawa was re-opened in 1957, but was finally mothballed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in 1965 when the mighty Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan came onstream. Today, the Wawa river stands mute, host to countless naturalists and tourists who flock regularly to its picturesque dam and muddy banks, and to a forest of mahogany trees, swaying gracefully in the wind.

Native forests like this one, once in constant danger of being razed, now are more likely to remain undisturbed.

Their unlikely protector: The Manila Water Company.

The Ayala-led water and wastewater services contractor derives almost 98 percent of the over 1,500 million liters per day (MLD) of water that it distributes to its 5 million customers from large swaths of native forest in Bulacan, Novaliches, and hopefully soon, from the mountain ranges of San Mateo and Tanay in Rizal province. Unfortunately, most of these lands have fallen prey to decades of overcutting and burning by illegal settlers.

Since taking over from the government-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in 1997, Manila Water has embarked on numerous focused forest-preservation activities, (coupled in future with livelihood and low cost housing programs) in the watershed areas from where it sources much of its water supply.

> *"We shall pursue our vision to become a trail blazer in the development and provision of water and wastewater services in ways that help build sustainable communities, respect people and protect the environment."*

But in lieu of the traditional way of seeking environmental change through government legislation or the courts, Manila Water has been quietly setting up and facilitating partnerships with various cause-oriented groups, local government units and and a bevy of government agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), the MWSS, and fellow private sector environmental advocates like ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan.

With these partnerships, Manila Water has been experiencing moderate success in its joint-integrated water resources strategy involving the rehabilitation of old water sources, like the Wawa River, and the development of future ones such as the Laiban Dam in Tanay. The strategy will be particularly significant when dealing with problematic issues such as Right-of-Way (ROW), illegal settling and relocation issues, and even livelihood possibilities through a sustained micro-financing program for displaced farmers in sensitive watershed sites.

Protecting waters supply at the source. *Manila Water managers and their families partner with government agencies, cause-oriented groups, foundations and environmental organizations, to plant various hardwood species at the La Mesa, Wawa and Balara watersheds.*

•Business success, not enough

Manila Water's environmental strategy is part and parcel of its aggressive efforts to integrate the principles of sustainable development into its business processes. Business-wise, the joint venture between the Ayala Corporation, United Utilities (a leading water and power company in the UK), Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan, International Finance Corporation (the private investment arm of the World Bank), and Bank of the Philippine Islands Capital has, over the past seven years, posted significant gains in improving services to some five million people (or 515,000 households) in its service area, the East Zone of Metro Manila.

But for Manila Water president, Antonino T. Aquino, achieving business success on its own, is not enough.

"We believe that the continued sustainability of our business is dependent on the customers we serve and the environment that supports our resources," he explains. "This policy is in line with our values to promote corporate social responsibility and nation-building. We intend to further strengthen our programs to address the needs of the communities where we operate, the environment, and even the national economy, without sacrificing the quality of the services that our customers expect."

Building partnerships

The Tubig Para Sa Barangay (TPSB) program addresses the needs of the East Zone's low income communities. Launched in 1997, the TPSB is anchored on the company's core value of "Malasakit", which basically revolves around the idea of reaching out to improve the quality of people's lives by building partnerships with them

Trail blazer in corporate social responsibility

Other sustainable development programs include:

Lingap Barangay (or Caring for the Community). Lingap Mag-aaral which aims to educate grade school students in the East Zone on the importance of correct water use and protection of the environment. Other children's projects under this program include innovative fund-raising, school supplies and book drives such as the 'Children's Hour', 'Lapis at Papel', 'Sa Pagbasa, May Pag-Asa', and 'Sagip Toys for Kids'

KABUHAYAN PARA SA BARANGAY
Kabuhayan para sa Barangay
Sari-Sari Store

Market! Market! *Neighborhood housewives of Block 37 in Brgy Welfareville Mandaluyong City, do brisk business at Manila Water-provided Kabuhayan para sa Barangay Stalls. From fishballs to soap-making.*

Other Lingap Barangay endeavors include the Balara Community Development project which aims to restore the world-famous Balara Filters to its old glory The Balara Filters was a preeminent city destination from the 1940s to the 1960s, and is now home to hundreds of families living in the surrounding communities.

Sanitasyon Para Sa Barangay (Sanitation for the Community). This program was designed to provide sewerage services via communal septic tanks and sewerage lines within the slum areas of Metro Manila. This provides a viable way for the community to attain basic health standards by improving their environment.

Lingap Kalikasan (Caring for the Environment). Aside from its focused environmental programs in the watershed areas, Manila Water has been heavily involved, through partnerships with various cause-oriented groups and local government units, in a number of volunteer-driven greening activities in the cities and munipalities where it operates, as well as in all of its main production and treatment facilities.

The Lingap Kalikasan also involves a comprehensive solid waste management program that ensures a systematic way of segregating, collecting, transporting, storing and disposing of solid wastes in all of the company's facilities.

Manila Water also has projects centered on maximizing energy efficiency in all major pumping stations, deep well and treatment facilities. Energy and chemical use is optimized under the Lingap Kalikasan program to prevent real risks to the environment while ensuring the continued production of over 1500 million liters a day of clean water for all East Zone customers.

Lingap Kalusugan (Caring for Health). Due to the additional volume of potable water supplied to many urban poor communities in Metro Manila, Philippine government regulators have acknowledged Manila Water's TPSB program to have been a major contributor in the reduction of waterborne diseases and the infant mortality rate.

The Lingap Eskuwela addresses the health and sanitation of all public schoolchildren in the East Zone. The project is an inter-agency endeavor of Manila Water with the MWSS, Department of Education, the Department of Health and all local government units located within the company's service area.

Lingap Kabuhayan (Caring via Livelihood). This is Manila Water's most innovative program. Under it, the Kabuhayan Para Sa Barangay (Livelihood for the Community) enables urban poor enclaves that have become close partners of the company as a result of TPSB-driven organizational efforts, to start their own businesses, in the process making them more productive and sustainable communities.

The businesses are modest, no doubt (e.g. fishball, soap-making, beauty parlor and barber shop services, etc.) but the reception in livelihood-starved areas has been short of phenomenal. Manila Water has rolled out the project in two barangays in the interior of Mandaluyong City - Makaturing Compound and Block 37. The program will be jump-started in the next few months in six other Business Areas in the East Zone.

The Vendor Program is another project under Lingap Kabuhayan, designed to establish long-term relationships with the company's service providers and work contractors. Some 40 vendors are now participating in the program (numbering more than 7,000 workers) most of whom are focused on civil works and facilities work. Through the Vendor Program, the general public where Manila Water operates is less inconvenienced due to synchronized project implementation with other agencies.

Now on its seventh anniversary since taking over as contractor for the MWSS, Manila Water is definitely on track to meeting its key targets: to expand 24-hour water coverage to 94 percent of the population before 2008, and sewerage and sanitation coverage from 3 percent to 55 percent of residents over the 25-year concession. Along the way, the company intends to strengthen even more its commitment to sustainable development

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Galing Pilipino Movement
www.galingpilipino.com

PRINSIPYONG
Galing Pilipino

Ang galing, sa sarili manggagaling.
Kung ang galing ipamamalas,
'di ka dadatnan ng malas.
Hindi kailangang trabaho'y sikat
upang galing mo'y sumikat.
Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa ang iyong hangarin,
kahit maliit na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin.
Sa lahat ng bagay todo-bigay.
Hanep sa hanapbuhay.
Hangga't di sapat, 'di paaawat.
Anuman ang sumapit, tuloy sa pag-awit.
May ibang paraan pa sa nakasanayan na.
Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo saludo!

Recognizing Heroes through the I-Gilas Program

The I-Gilas (ilabas ang gilas) program is a mass-based recognition system powered by GPM members who are authorized to award anyone whom they "spot" doing a good deed or act. Be inspired by the following stories of everyday heroes recently 'caught' by our 'good-behavior police!'

I-Gilas Citation No. 1476

Sister Valeriana Baerts
Founder, Tahanang Walang Hagdan,
Cainta, Rizal
August 5, 2004

GPM member Lucy Castillo, herself an I-Gilas awardee for courageously doing volunteer work and starting a family despite a debilitating bone cancer, found the opportunity to return the favor of honoring another 'hero' by issuing the Galing Pilipino citation to Sister Valeriana Baerts. Belgian Sister Valeriana embraced Filipino citizenship and dedicated her life to providing homes and opportunities for persons-with-disabilities (PWDs) by founding the Tahanang Walang Hagdanan.

I-Gilas Citation No. 3450

August 20, 2004
Bernard Villaflores
Crew, Star Cinema, Quezon City

At the recent GPM tree-planting activity event, GPM member Esperanza Gutierrez found the trek to and from the La Mesa Dam Watershed physically challenging. Luckily, Bernard did not leave her side until the project is completed and served as her "crutch" in rough patches as they trod the muddy road.

I-Gilas Citation No. 1499

Edward Marzan
Head Writer

A hard working waiter of a Filipino restaurant for 14 years now. Edward supported himself through college as a waiter. His remarkable sensitivity to his guests, anticipating guests' needs before they even ask, an optimistic attitude, plus a heart for service, caused him to be promoted as head waiter.

I-Gilas Citation No. 1036

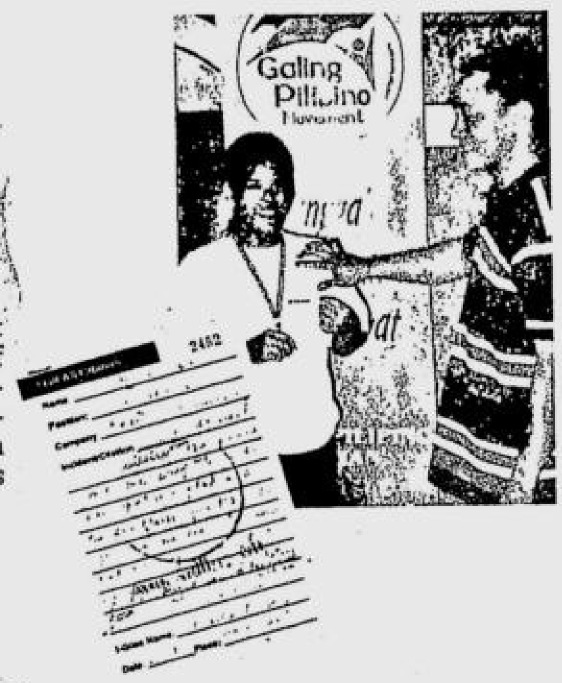
July 16, 2003
Eugene dela Cruz
Food Server

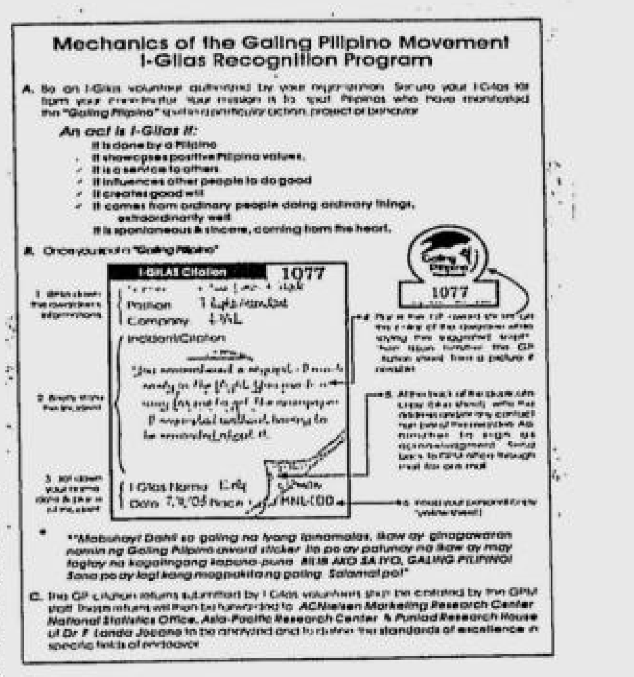
Eugene was cited for excellent customer service. Maasikaso, always checking to see if his guests were happy with their order and the quality of service given to them.

I-Gilas Citation No. 2452

August 27, 2004
Janette Ruaboro
Janitress, Baliuag University, Bulacan

When a GPM member called Baliuag University, Janette answered the phone very efficiently and gave the caller the complete information she needed. Doing frontline service for the school, Janette gave the caller the impression that the employees of Baliuag University are all warm and accommodating. All the while the caller thought that Janette was a well-trained telephone operator. She was surprised to learn that she is the school's janitress, who was pitching in for her co-workers on coffee break! Kudos to this employee who is always ready to serve beyond the call of her duty.




Mechanics of the Galing Pilipino Movement I-Gilas Recognition Program

A. [illegible] "Galing Pilipino" [illegible]

An act is I-Gilas if:
It is done by a Filipino
It showcases positive Filipino values.
It is a service to others
It influences other people to do good
It creates good will
It comes from ordinary people doing ordinary things, extraordinarily well
It is spontaneous & sincere, coming from the heart.

B. Once you spot a "Galing Pilipino" [illegible]

"Mabuhay! Dahil sa galing na iyong ipinamalas, ikaw ay ginagawaran namin ng Galing Pilipino award sticker. Ito po ay patunay na ikaw ay may taglay na kagalingang kapuna-puna. BILIB AKO SA IYO, GALING PILIPINO! Sana po ay lagi kang magpakita ng galing. Salamat po!"

C. The GP citation returns submitted by I-Gilas volunteers [illegible] GPM staff. These returns will then be forwarded to ACNielsen Marketing Research Center, National Statistics Office, Asia-Pacific Research Center & Puniad Research House of Dr. F. Landa Jocano to be analyzed and to define the standards of excellence in specific fields of endeavor.

I-Gilas Citation No. 1624

August 20, 2003
Ariel M. Legarde
Provider Taxi

On or about 08/19/03, 4:30 pm, Miss Maricar Jaruda, our food processor left her collection to(sic) said taxi. Following day, Mr. Legarde through RMN Radio Agency, returned the amount of P15,000. The driver lives 45-minutes away from Cagayan de Oro City.

I-Gilas Citation No. 2655

Claudio E. Mananita
Utility Worker II
Cebu City Hall

For years, GPM Cebu member Ann Lisondra has been following up on the release of some documents she needed from the Cebu City Hall. About to lose her cool after being given much run-around, Claudio offered to help by checking the paper-trail, photocopying documents she needed and referring her to the appropriate personnel who is processing her documents. Ann was surprised to learn that the efficient and knowledgeable personnel she was talking to was the office utility worker, issuing him the Galing Pilipino award sticker. Claudio was grateful for the award, saying that it was the first time for him to receive one in his 38 years of service.

3rd batch of Thames Students Graduate from UK Honors Programss

Last July, the third batch of Thames students graduated from its affiliate UK universities such as the University of Portsmouth, Middlesex University, Hertfordshire University, and Northrumbia University. They finished in honor programs such as BA (Hons) Business Studies, BA (Hons) Computing, and BA(Hons) Marketing.

Thames International Business School first opened its doors in the country in 1999. The school introduced its revolutionary twinning concept that allows students to take the first 2 years of their college degree in the Philippines and finish the final 1 - 2 years in any of its affiliate universities in the UK and Australia. This system has allowed more Filipinos to have access to a foreign degree because it has substantially reduced the cost of studying abroad.

The Thames twinning concept lead the way to the globalization of Philippine education. Providing the 1-2 year exposure in foreign universities allowed Filipino students to expand their perspective on how to be an international player in business. Moreover, the years of being "independent" abroad has helped Thames students build their character and self-confidence.

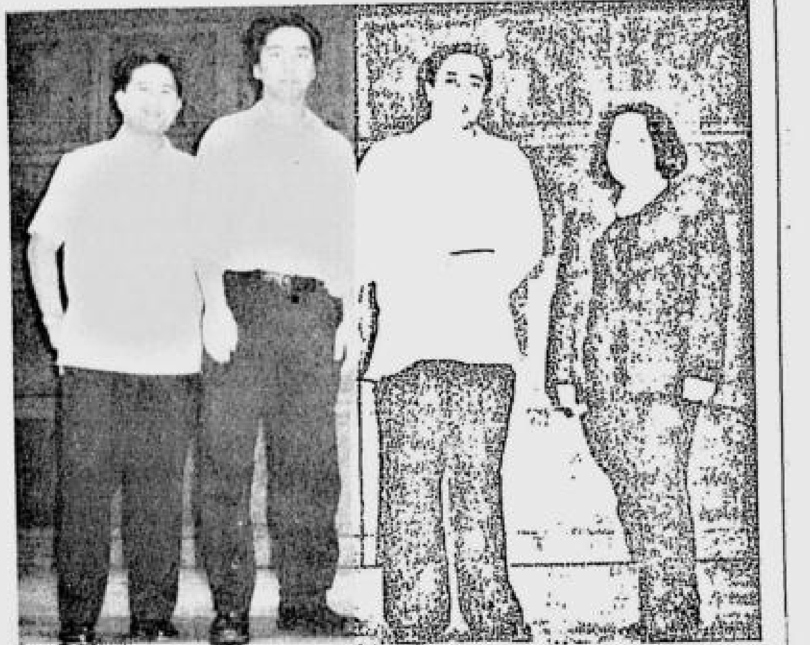
The fact that Filipino students are able to graduate in a UK honors program just like their classmates from the UK, France, Singapore, Germany, Japan, and the U.S. show that Filipinos can compete with the best of the world.

Below is a partial list of the Thames UK graduates last July 2004

University of Portsmouth
Teresa Leung
Abby Penalosa
Alex Arellano
Angeli Azarcon
Marina Surla
Christian Bergara
Middlesex University
Kristine Barangan
Mark Seng
Sara Chiu
Samuel Pine
University of Hertfordshire
Marcaine Ng
Kathrina Tolentino
Alvin Tan
University of Northrumbia
Frances Robles

Thames student entrepreneurs score big in the Jaycees' Young Entrepreneurs competition

JCI
BEST BUSINESS PLAN
PROFIT CATEGORY
Graduate Level
BEST BIZ PLAN
PLANTERSBANK



This year, Manila Jaycees organized the 1st Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Best Business Plan Competition. In the national finals held last June, 4 of the 10 finalists were college students from Thames International Business School. Reaching the finals from Thames were Ian Abaya with his bottled fish, Pamela Co with her soft-serve ice cream, Christian Guerrero with his franchise farming concept and Don Eikel Ladores with his ornamental plants business. Below is the complete list of business plans that made it to the finals:

- Arts & Flames Corp. - University of San Carlos
- Café Bossa Candon -Thames Int'l Business School
- Ice Mixx -Thames Int'l Business School
- Instructional Designers, Inc. - De la Salle University Professional Schools
- Manila Tropical Nursery -Thames Int'l Business School
- Pillows R Us -University of San Jose Recoletos
- Sick Sense, Inc- Ateneo de Manila University
- Tree House Soya, Inc. - Ateneo de Manila University
- Tutor meTutorial Services - De la Salle University Professional Schools
- Xtal Farms - Thames Int'l Business School

In the final judging, Tree House Soya, Inc. a team composed of Dyan Hermogenes, Doris Ngo, and Ryan Ybanez bagged the Best Business Plan Award with Xtal Farms of Christian Guerrero securing the first runner-up award.

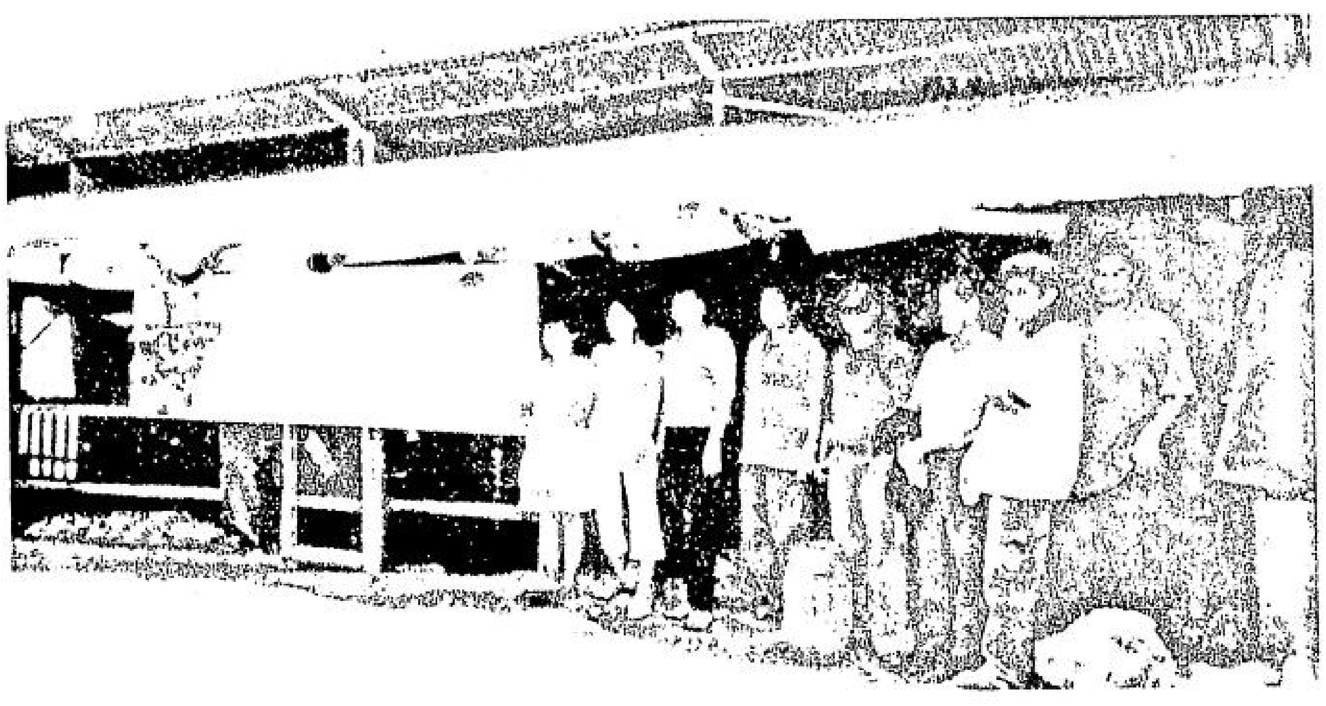
Thames is one of the pioneers in entrepreneurial education at the college level. Its founder, Vivienne Tan realized that the solution to the country's unemployment problem was not the creation of more "job seekers" but the development of "job creators."

Pax Lapid, the Program Director of the Thames Entrepreneurship program said, "There are many young individuals who have the entrepreneurial drive and passion but these need to be honed and directed towards creating a successful and sustainable venture. At Thames we have developed the entrepreneurial framework geared towards these young college students."

Philippine
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS
Best BUSINESS PLAN

YOUNG
Best BUSINESS PLAN

NG
tBUSINESS P N
mpetition
Auditorium
Entrepreneur



GPM NATURAL FARMING & PLASTIC WASTE RECYCLING PROJECT
LAPU-LAPU CITY DUMPSITE COMMUNITY, CEBU
Early in the year, GPM won in the World Bank's Panibagong Paraan contest. Applying the PACAP-Aus Aid grant received, GPM showcases the application of natural farming technology in pig-raising the "walang hugas, walang ligo, walang baho" way, and the use of recycled plastics in creating home decorative products for the households of the Lapu-Lapu City Dumpsite Community. The project has two-pronged objectives: (1) help resolve solid waste management concerns and (2) provide a means of economic empowerment for the residents of the scavenger community. It has so far incited interests from local officials, government agencies or private individuals and other sectors of the community.

GPM captures the views of todays Filipino youth on heroism

In celebration of National Heroes Day, GPM endeavored to capture the views of today's Pilipino youth on the meaning and relevance of heroism through an essay-writing contest for students

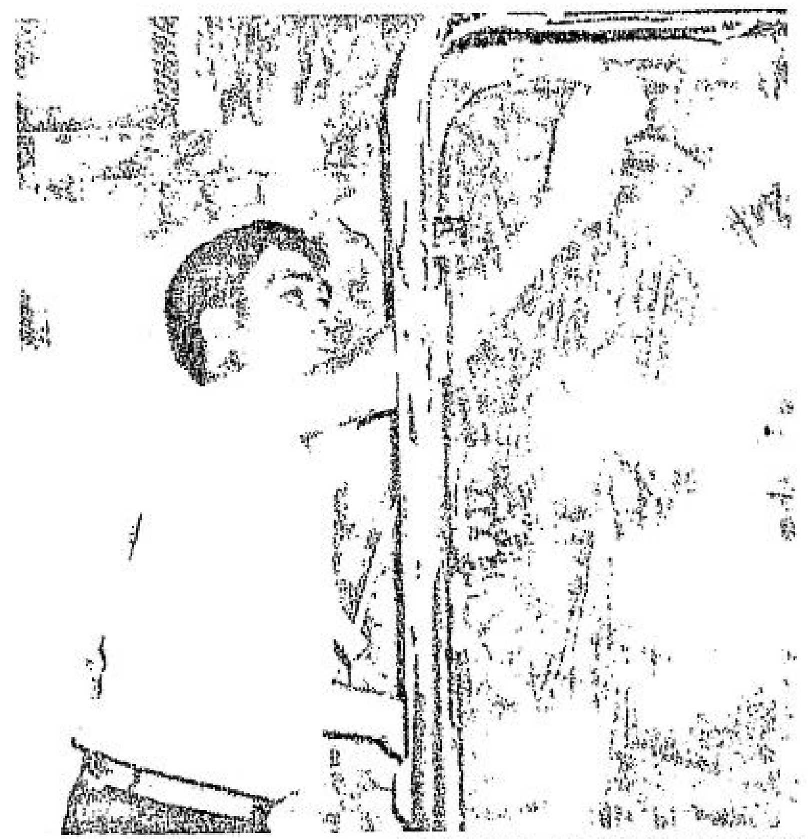
Topping the league of students who submitted their entries is Richelle A. Mira, senior student of St. Joseph Institute of Technology in Butuan City who was declared the Grand Prize Winner for her entry, "Kung Paglilingkod sa Kapwa ang Iyong Hangarin, Kahit na Maliit na Gawa ay Kahanga-hanga Rin". In her essay, a Christian youth group she met during a vacation became for her, an inspiring example of selfless service and heroism. These volunteers share about the Bible to kids in poor, remote communities while teaching livelihood skills to their parents. "The service they have extended is proof that there is always something good in every human being," she concluded.

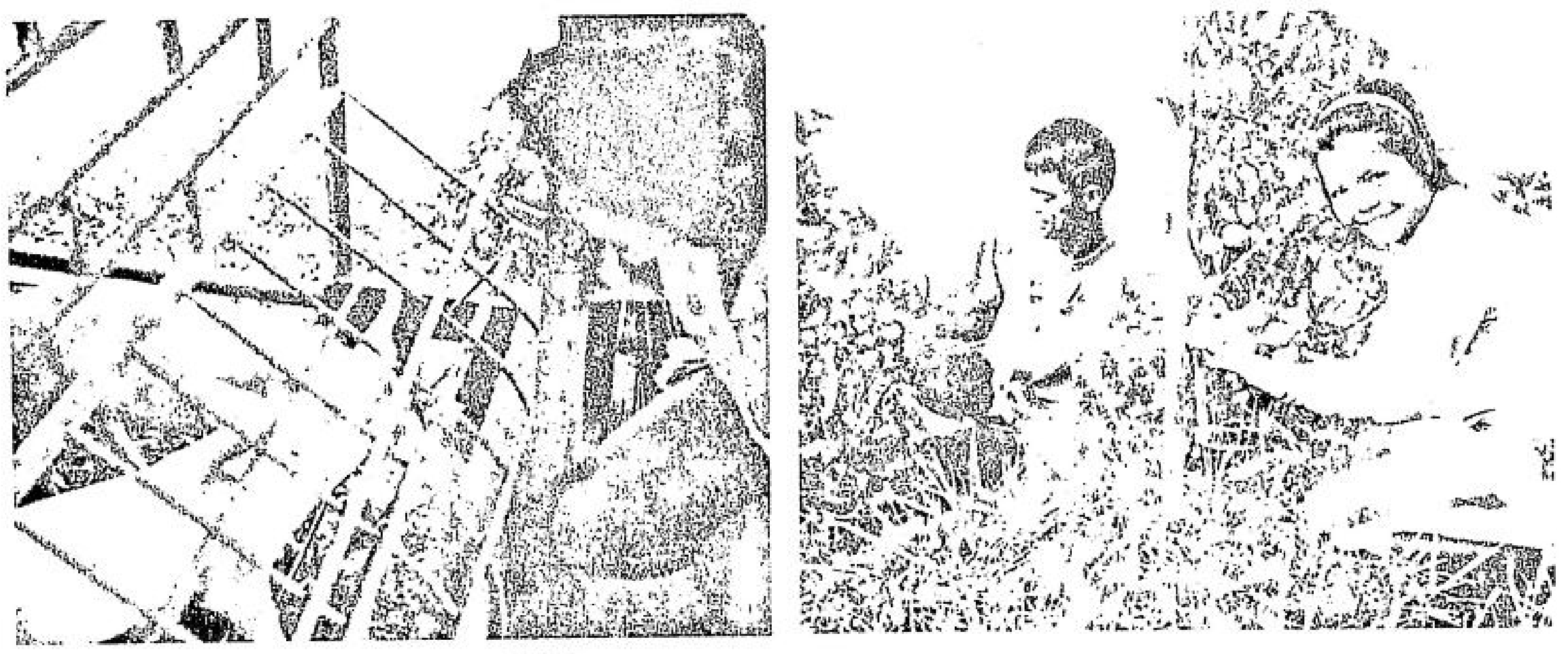
On the other hand, Juco Antonio O. Rivera, 2nd Year B.S.E-English major from the De La Salle University-Manila says that "the heroes of his life actually live right in his own house". He was referring to his parents, who made the choice to be loving even though it required a lot of work. His essay, "The Heroes in My Parents" won for him the First Runner-Up for this essay contest.

Bagging the 2nd Runner-Up Prize is Jalin V. Batubal, a 4th year student of B.S. Accountancy of the Technological Institute of the Philippines, Manila. For her, national artist Nick Joaquin is a hero for awakening her pride in being Pilipino. In her essay "Nick, the Nationalist", she said that while other heroes saved us from oppression, Nick saved our Filipino souls from dying.

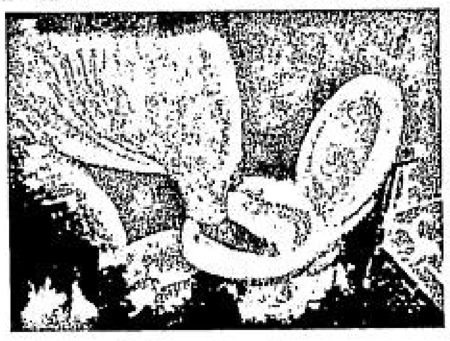
Winners will receive cash prizes of P10,000; P5,000 and P3,000 respectively. They are mandated to share half of their winnings with school organizations of their choice. These school organizations will have to jointly venture with GPM on a socially beneficial project. Cash prizes were sponsored by Banco de Oro and Photoline. Winners also get gift packs from Penshoppe, Chowking, Victoria Court Group, and all-expense paid participation in the GPM Young Leaders Camp in October at the Hotel La Corona de Pagsanjan.

The final entries were evaluated by Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, Dean of the UP College of Mass Communications who served as Chairman of the board of judges. Together with him as members were Registrar-General Carmelita N. Ericta of the National Statistics Office and Mr. Abel Ulanday, Associate Editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.





GPM SEMINAR ON NATURAL FARMING
This innovative seminar taught by Mr. Andry Lim of Davao teaches the participants how to do chemical-free, low-cost yet high-yielding farming technology. It also trains the farmer to formulate his own farm inputs using locally available materials such as: indigenous microorganisms, fermented plant juice, fish amino acid and other concoctions that increase the productivity of farm yield. The seminar also has a module on a waterless and odorless piggery technology, that reduces production costs to more than 50%, compared to commercial methods.



GALING HOUSEKEEPING SEMINAR AS PART OF THE GP BISITA PILIPINAS PROGRAM
GPM in tandem with the Victoria Court Group offers a one-day seminar on quality housekeeping as part of its Bisita Pilipinas, an eco-agro tourism-based program that involves enlisting private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed and breakfast trade. The GP Housekeeping Seminar teaches participants how to make beds ala-hotel style, how to thoroughly clean bathrooms, kitchens and the like. Bisita Pilipinas is GPM's countryside development program to nurture what is unique and excellent in a community.

GPM MEMBERSHIP FORM

Galing Pilipino Movement

Prinsipyong Galing Pilipino

Ang galing, sa sarili manggagaling.
Kung ang galing ipamamalas, 'di ka dadatnan ng malas.
Hindi kailangang trabaho'y sikat, upang galing mo'y sumikat.
Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa ang iyong hangarin,
kahit maliit na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin.
Sa lahat ng bagay todo bigay.
Hanep sa hanapbuhay.
Hanggat di sapat, 'di paaawat.
Anuman ang sumapit, tuloy sa pag-awit.
May ibang paraan pa sa nakasanayan na.
Sa trabaho, pati buong mundo saludo!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

[ ] Regular Member	Php 100
[ ] Donor Member	Php 1,000
[ ] Patron Member	Php 10,000
[ ] Partner Member	Php 50,000
[ ] Lifetime Member	Php 100,000

Name
Mailing Address

Telephone
Cellphone
E-mail
Birthday
Company/School
Occupation/Course

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

[ ] Corporate Member	Php 10,000
[ ] Corporate Donor	Php 25,000
[ ] Corporate Patron	Php 50,000
[ ] Corporate Benefactor	Php 100,000
[ ] Corporate Partner	Php 1,000,000

Company Name
Company Address

Telephone
Facsimile
Website/E-mail
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Designation
Contact Number

For donations, payments, or direct deposits, go to any UnionBank Branch
(GPM Foundation, Inc. – Account # 00-001-008201-3)

Send or fax deposit slip and membership form to
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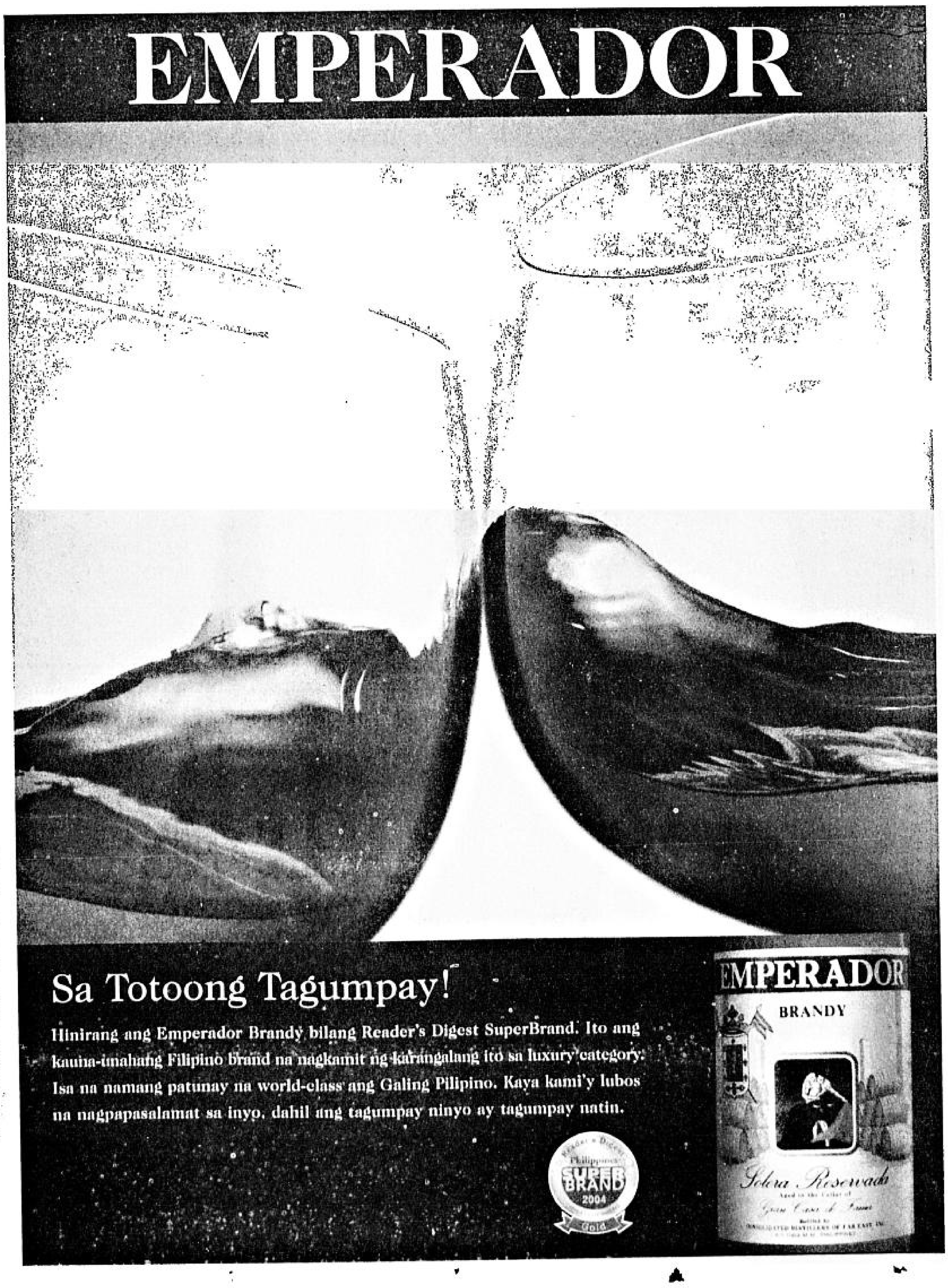
Tel No. 631 3932 / Telefax: 633 1089 / Mobile: 0917 835 4829 / 0917 536 0345
Url. http//www.galingpilipino.com / E-mail. galing phils@pacific.net.ph



EMPERADOR

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)

2004

August 20, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is inviting interested firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **BIR Information Technology Outsourcing Initiative.** The procurement of and subsequent contracting for the I.T. services shall be in four (4) separate projects. The BIR wishes to bid out the second and third projects, namely:

Name of Project	**B-Applications Development of the eITS**
Brief Description	The outsourcer will be required to provide consulting, technical and management services necessary to develop a java-based web-enabled Integrated Tax system (eITS); convert its database using the latest Oracle version; develop the transition plan for the implementation of the new ITS and assist in the implementation thereof.
Contract Duration	December 1, 2004 up to November 30, 2005
Approved Budget	Php 60,000,000.00
Source of funding	e-Government Fund

Name of Project	**C-Data Center Services IT Infrastructure Provisioning and Operation**
Brief Description	Provide data center services, including hardware and software provisioning and operation, communication network provisioning and operation, and end-user support.
Contract Duration	December 1, 2004 up to December 31, 2005
Approved Budget	Php 160,000,000.00
Source of funding	e-Government Fund

Note that a bidder may bid for the two projects.

Competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The procurement shall follow the rules prescribed for Eligibility and Shortlisting of Consulting Services and Quality Based Evaluation Procedure.

Interested parties must submit their Letter of Intent to the undersigned on or before September 6, 2004. Those who have expressed their interest may secure the Eligibility Requirements Checklists and Forms from August 23 to September 20, 2004 from the BAC-II, Secretariat Rm. 302, 3/F Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission of the eligibility requirements is on September 21, 2004.

Qualified local and foreign companies/outsourcers/consulting firms/service providers licensed to perform the I.T. services required by the BIR may participate in the Bidding, if deemed eligible and are short-listed.

Pursuant to the IRR, only eligible and short-listed firms will be allowed to participate in the bidding process and obtain the Bidding Documents at the following prices:

Lot B Php 12,000.00
Lot C Php 32,000.00

Pre-Bid Conference and the submission and opening of bids will be held at the Executive Conference Room, 3/F BIR-National Office Building, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City on the following schedules:

Particulars	Lot B	Lot C
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2004, 9:00 am	October 15, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
Bid Proper	October 29, 2004, 9:00 am	October 29, 2004, 2:00 pm

The BIR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the Government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Rm. 302, 3/F Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4104, 981-7079, 981-7080, 928-3235 (fax), or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph until October 28, 2004.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner, HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2004)

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Incorporated (BMHI) invites all interested SUPPLIERS, MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS to bid for the following:

	Items	Approved Budget
1	Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Fifteen (15) Units of Desktop Computers	Php900,000.00
2.	Supply and Delivery of Seven (7) printers	
3	Supply and Delivery of One (1) External Modem (D/F/V) and Two (2) External Combo Drive	

1. Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Chairperson. BMHI Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee (BMHI-PBAC) at the Small Conference Room, Main Lobby, BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, on or before 12:00 NN of September 6 – 10, 2004 The **Deadline for the submission** of LOI is on **12:00 NN of September 10, 2004**. The LOI should state the following information:
    - a. Company's name, address and nature of business; and
    - b. Contact person directly employed by the company, and contact telephone numbers.
2. All interested suppliers shall secure a copy of the Bidding Documents for a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00)** at the above mentioned address, on or before 12.00 NN of September 10, 2004.
3. The Proposals shall be accepted on or before 12:00 NN and opened in the presence of the proponents or their authorized representatives at 1:30 PM on September 29, 2004 at the above-mentioned address.
4. BMHI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which may be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

For additional information or clarification, please call Mr. **Bryan S. Pabustan** of the BMHI-PBAC Technical Working Group at 816-0989 or 816-1348.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA**
BMHI-PBAC Chairperson

(PDI Aug 29 & Sept 5, 2004

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Cebu – (032) 231-5654	CDO - (08822) 727945

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified **Canteen Concessionaire/Caterer** to apply for eligibility and to bid to operate a canteen business at SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Bid documents may be secured at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **P500.00**. For further inquiries please call at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be held on:

Date : September 16, 2004
Time : 2:00 P.M.
Place : MRD Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building

Eligible Bidders shall submit their bids in two (2) separate sealed envelope, the first containing the Eligibility Requirements and the **second** the Technical/Financial Proposal. All documents originating from other government agencies should be **Authenticated/ Certified True Copies.**

The envelopes must be sealed, properly labeled, signed or stamped across the envelope flap.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on:

Date : September 29, 2004
Time : 12:00 Noon
Place : General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building
To whom : Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag, Head BAC Secretariat

Bid submitted after said date/time will no longer be accepted.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and award of contract.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or less that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 22 & 29, 2004)

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Programme (BIARSP), a rural development programme, is assisting the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the successful and efficient implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). One of the commitments of the Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) of BIARSP is to provide DAR and other partners with a comprehensive institutional capacity building investment. Hence, it invites eligible persons, institutions or companies to express their interest in providing training activities in the following fields:

- Project Cycle Management
- Proposal Writing and Design
- Project Assessment and Evaluation
- Team Building and Value Formation
- Organizational Development
- Entrepreneurial Management
- Community Development Planning
- Computer Skills Enhancement

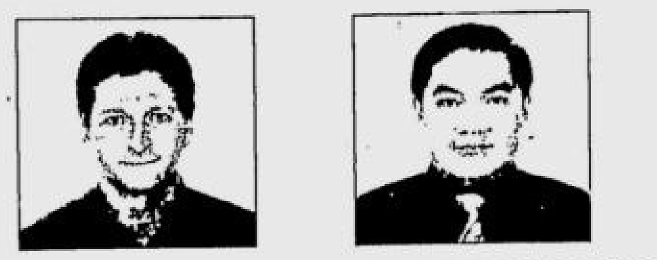
Interested parties must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services sought (CV; previous trainings conducted; calendar of training activities for the remaining of 2004 and thereafter; training modules of one or more of the above-mentioned areas, etc.)

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by September 15, 2004:

The Belgian Programme Coordinator
BIARSP-TSCO
2nd Floor Sol y Mar Bldg.
Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street
6200 Dumaguete City
Negros Oriental
Tel. #s: (035) 225-5929-30; 225-8661; 422-7459
Fax.#: (035) 422-7736
Email: tsco@biarsp.org

(PDI–Aug. 29 & 30, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT **MESSRS. DON WORTMAN** (left) AND **MEYRICK TED MANCEBO** (right) ARE NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH **PAE ENVIRONMENTAL (PHILS.), INC.**

ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED BY THEM EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2004 SHALL NOT BE HONORED BY THE COMPANY.

(PDI - Aug. 29, 2004)

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THE COMPANY

The joint companies of Central Lumber Corporation, a Cebu-based company and a recognized name in the construction supply industry, and Mc Alpines Limited, one of the three largest, privately owned sawmilling, timber and building groups in New Zealand, is in need of:

TERRITORY MANAGERS

To promote and sell the company's high quality treated, kiln dried wood products for construction to be architectural profession.

THE CANDIDATES WE ARE INTERESTED IN SHOULD BE:

- Dynamic, aggressive and with good communication skills
- Graduate of any Bachelor Science Degree
- Willing to learn and open to constructive criticism
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SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING:

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Cor. ADB and Garnet Sts., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telephone: 914-0097, 687-7624

NEW PAGCOR

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-03-2004

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service for CF-Angeles
Required Personnel: 57 janitors
Approved Budget : Seven Million Five Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six Pesos & 80/100
(P 7,527,426.84)
Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, CF-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City (045) 892-5073-74 / 625-7597.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from August 25, 2004 to September 20, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Office, Corporate Office or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, CF-Angeles upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : **September 7, 2004** (2:00 pm)
Submission of Bids : **September 21, 2004** (2:00 pm)
Opening of Bids : **September 21, 2004** (2:00 pm onwards)

***VENUE:* Meeting Room, Mezzanine, Casino Filipino-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City**

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, Casino Filipino-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA M. YENKO**
Chairperson, BBAC-Angeles

(PDI--August 29 & Sept. 5, 2004)

Trans Co
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-009B

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 24, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	1 LOT	CAPTURE CARD AND 4 OTHERS	3SL-04-061	P 2,709,000.00
A2	220 PCS	INSULATORS, POST TYPE	D1-04-071	P 3,190,000.00
	1120 PCS	INSULATORS, SUSPENSION	D1-04-071	1,512,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 to A2 will be held on **September 09, 2004**; 1:30 p.m. at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting **August 31, 2004**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) **G. R. LISTANO**
CHAIRMAN-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI - Aug. 29, 2004)

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- Manufacturers and distributors of cosmetics, skin care, hair care, health and food supplement products;
- Service providers to the industry such as consultants, banks and financing institutions, school and training centers.

SEMINAR

Seminar Topics:

- How to Set-up and Manage a Hair and Beauty Salon, Spa, or Fitness Center;
- Professionalizing and Making Your Business More Profitable;
- Diversifying the Services That You Offer;
- How to Franchise a Beauty and Wellness Type of Business.

ACTIVITIES

- Presentations and demos of the latest trends in beauty and wellness;
- Discussions on the viability of the beauty and wellness industry;
- Launching of new products and services;
- Business opportunity presentations.

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For inquiries, please contact: IPBS Tel: (632) 532.2813, 533.6038, 534.4648
Text: BWEXPO to 208 E-mail: imageplusevents@yahoo.com Mobile: (0916) 281.5090

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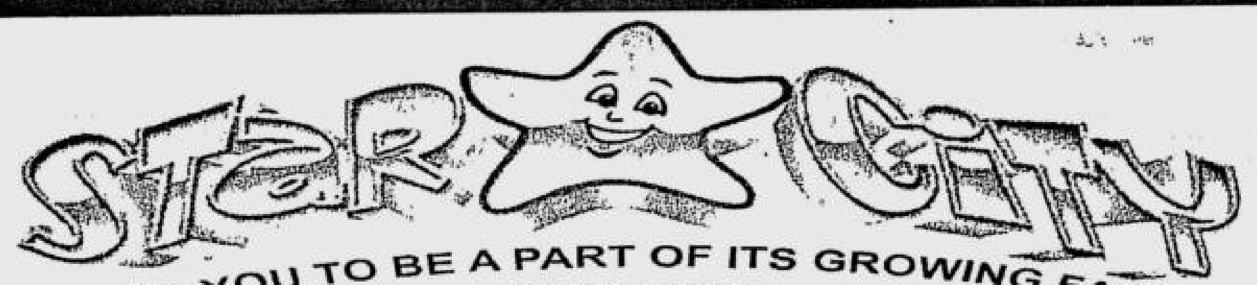

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8320307, 8320308 or 8334484

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Registered Owners of the Motorcycle Units listed below have found the units to be missing from their stock inventory:

Motorbike Model	Chassis No.	Plate No.
Honda CB400	NC31-1001079	YX-5849
Honda CB400	NC31-1012847	YX-5820
Honda CB400	NC31-1026406	UK-9893
Honda CB400	NC31-1014280	UK-9904
Kawasaki FX400R	ZX400D-307811	UD-6216
Honda Dio-2	AF27-1134501	UE-4957
Honda Lead	AF20-1204791	UE-2435
Yamaha Jog	27V-2032635	TS-4483

As per records, the above units were received by MR. HENRY NAVARRO.

Any Party or Individual who have encountered the above units are requested to contact Atty. Sergio Ceniza through the following numbers: (02) 5286266 / 0917-8957320.

(PDI Aug 29, 2004)

The University of Baguio

is in search of an

Executive Vice-President

The candidate we are looking for
- ✓ must have a good record of work and/or teaching experiences.
- ✓ He must have a Master's degree, or its equivalent.
- ✓ He must be computer proficient and speak good English.

Salary and benefits will depend on qualifications.
Please email your application letter and resumé to

evpc2@yahoo.com or
send it to EVP C2,
President's Office, University of Baguio,
Gen. Luna Road, Baguio City 2600.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an "as-is-where-is" basis and as one whole lot, the following National Government (NG)/National Power Corporation (NPC) properties:

DESCRIPTION	INDICATIVE PRICE
Two parcels of land with a total area of 6,233 square meters, located at No. 1, Don Bosco St., Barangay San Lorenzo, Makati City	P 115,310,500.00

Sealed bids will be received on **Thursday, September 30, 2004** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P 10,000.00.

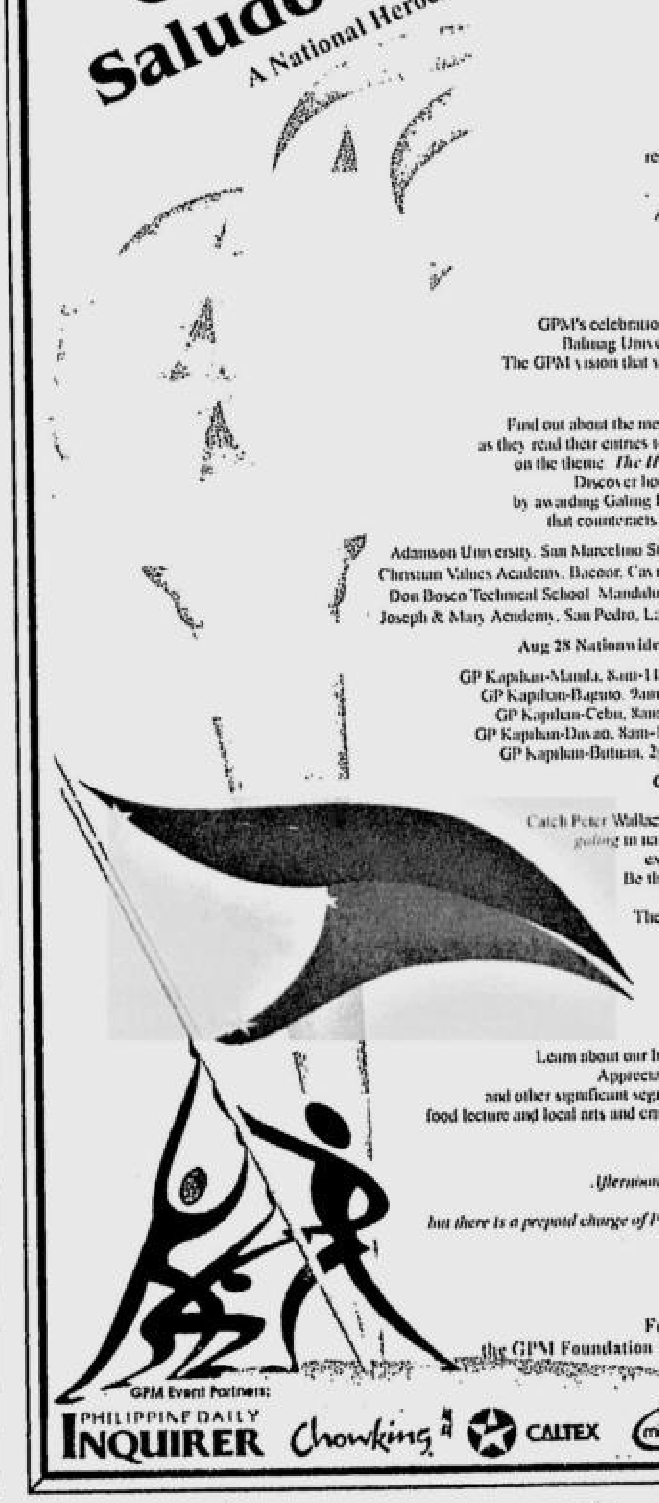
In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the subject assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

Galing Pilipino Movement

Galing Pilipino, Saludo ang Mundo!

A National Heroes Day Celebration



The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) commemorates heroism through a unique showcase of nationwide Galing Pilipino awardees recognized by GPM volunteers who purposively look for what is good and excellent among us. Be part of this history-making event! Attend a GPM National Heroes Day event near you!

GPM National Heroes Day Events

GPM kick-off at Baliuag University (Bulacan)
August 27, Friday, 8am-11am
GPM's celebration kicks off at the birthland of our Katipunan heroes. Baliuag University takes the lead in rallying the youth to embrace The GPM vision that will make "galing" the brand mark of being Pilipino.

Campus GP Kapihans (held simultaneously)
Aug 28, Saturday, 8am-11am
Find out about the meaning and relevance of heroism to today's *Kabataan* as they read their entries to the nationwide GPM student essay-writing contest on the theme *The Hero(es) of My Generation: The Galing Generation.* Discover how GPM volunteers unleash the power of affirmation by awarding Galing Pilipino stickers and citations to create a virtue cycle that counteracts skepticism and despair about our state of the nation.

Adamson University, San Marcelino St., Manila • Arellano University, Legarda, Manila
Christian Values Academy, Bacoor, Cavite • College of the Holy Spirit, Mendiola, Manila
Don Bosco Technical School, Mandaluyong • Far Eastern University, Morayta, Manila
Joseph & Mary Academy, San Pedro, Laguna • University of Sto. Tomas, España, Manila

Aug 28 Nationwide GP Kapihans (brunch hosted by CHOWKING)

GP Kapihan-Manila, 8am-11am, Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong
GP Kapihan-Baguio, 9am-11am, Chowking-SM Baguio City
GP Kapihan-Cebu, 8am-11am, Chowking-Mandaue City
GP Kapihan-Davao, 8am-11am, Chowking-Bajada, Davao City
GP Kapihan-Butuan, 2pm-5pm, Chowking-Butuan City

GP Sunday Breakfast Forum @ Italianni's Makati
Aug 29, Sunday, 8:00am-10:30am
Catch Peter Wallace as he shares his insights on how to harness Pilipino *galing* in nation-building. Hear UP Masscom Dean Nic Tiongson expound on The Hero in the Pilipino: Myth or Reality? Be the first to know as we announce the National Winners of the GPM Essay Writing contest with the theme The Hero(es) of My Generation: The Galing Generation.

Prior reservation required. Please call 633.1089 [illegible]

Pagdiriwang ng Kabayanihan sa Bulacan
Enriquez Ancestral Home, 278 Molina St., Brgy. San Jose, Bulacan, Bulacan
Aug 29, Sunday, 1:00pm-5:00pm
Learn about our historical roots in an engaging educational experience. Appreciate the Women of Bulacan, Plaridel, Katipunan heroes and other significant segments of our past re-told and presented through plays, food lecture and local arts and crafts demo by the descendants of Bulacan Katipuneros. Enjoy the delectable "Pagkain ng mga Bayani" A stylized supper served the Katipunan-period style.

Afternoon tour program is a free will offering courtesy of GPM. Merienda is hosted by Chowking but there is a prepaid charge of P350 required for those who would like to have dinner.

Listen to a one-hour radio special on GPM National Heroes Day Celebration DZRH 666Khz, August 29, 9-10am

For registration and further inquiries please call the GPM Foundation @ 631.3932, 633.1089 or text @ 0917.835.4829

GPM Event Partners: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chowking, Caltex, mbc

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RESIDENTIAL

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
1. L-7 Blk-82, Yakal St. Neopolitan Subd, Sitio Seville/LA-400 (near SM Fairview)	2,300,000
2. Condo / Unit-1,4/F, San Jose Condo #119 Sct Fernandez St Brgy Sacred Heart(near Church) w/ parking slot / F.A - 42	1,304,000
3. Lot-8 Blk-4, Adrian St., North Fairview Park, Pasong Putik L A -300 (near Regalado Ave)	1,803,000

SAN JUAN	MIN BID
4. 3-Dr.,2-Sty Apt./# 22 A Bonifacio St., Brgy. Kabayanan LA-393/FA-300 (near Aquinas Schl & Dominican Church)	5,000,000

PASIG - Ortigas Center	MIN BID
5. Condo -4BR, 5TB, Maid's Rm & Pkng /Unit-2802 AIC Gold Twr. Emerald Ave / F A - 187 17 (at the back of Robinsons Gal)	6,900,000

MAKATI - Brgy. Singkamas	MIN BID
Maskardo St. (beside Mktl. Coliseum)	
6. Lot / Lot-1 Blk-23 / L A.- 282	4,794,000
7. Lot / Lot-2 Blk-23 / L A - 315 * WITH EXISTING CASE *	5,355,000

TAGAYTAY CITY	MIN BID
In between Sta. Rosa short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
8. Lot/Lot-8, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd ,Brgy Tolentino-West (over looking Taal Lake) L A - 2,156 * WITH LIS PENDENS *	20,000,000

CALOOCAN CITY	MIN BID
9. Lot/L-5 B-5, Myrna Subd Brgy Llano / L A -1,398 (near Llano Schl & via Damong Malit Rd)	1,600,000
10. Lot / Lot-25 & 26 Blk -31, 2nd St., Gracepark / L A - 388 60 (In between 3rd & 4th Avenue)	4,500,000

VALENZUELA -Canumay-East	MIN BID
11. Lot / Lot-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St./LA-1,114 (access via East Service Road)	2,241,000

ANTIPOLO - Palmera Hills	MIN BID
12 Lot-20 Blk-17, Jerusalem St. Ph-5, Brgy Uulan/LA-120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	332,000

CAVITE - Bacoor, Molino	MIN BID
Springville Subd.- Central Phase-2	
13. L-24 Blk-13 Agoho St./LA- 70	277,000
14 L-8 Blk-12 Agoho St /LA-180	713,000

CAVITE-Naic, Brgy. Palangue	MIN BID
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
15 Lot-5 Blk -19 / L A - 964	964,000
16 Lot-6 Blk -19 / L A - 1,194	1,194,000
17 Lot-6 Blk -19-A / L A - 1,249	1,249,000
18 Lot-6 Blk -18 / L A.- 1,468	1,468,000
19 Lot-1 Blk -24 / L A.- 1,624	1,868,000
20 Lot-8 Blk -19-B / L A - 1,890	1,890,000
21 Lot-10 Blk -19-B / L A - 2,245	2,245,000
22 Lot-9 Blk -19-B / L A - 2,247	2,585,000

RESIDENTIAL

CAVITE-Naic, Brgy. Palangue	MIN BID
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
23 Lot-4 Blk -19-A / L A - 2,953	2,953,000
24 Lot-5 Blk -19-B / L A - 3,052	3,052,000

BICOL - Camarines Sur	MIN BID
- near Calagbangan crossing -	
25 Lot-450-B, Maharlika Hi-way Calagbangan, Sipocot/LA-1,820	186,000
26 Lot/Lot-450-C,Maharlika Hi-way Calagbangan, Sipocot/LA-1,820	186,000

Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
27. Lot-52 Blk -50 / L A - 540	2,052,000
28 Lot-49 Blk -50 / L A - 582	2,212,000
29 Lot-50 Blk -50 / L A.- 627	2,383,000
30 Lot-46 Blk -50 / L A - 630	2,394,000
31 Lot-54 Blk -50 / L A.- 638	2,425,000
32 Lot-51 Blk -50 / L A - 732	2,782,000
33 Lot-93 Blk -48 / L A - 783	2,976,000
34. Lot-27 Blk -17 / L A - 828	3,147,000
35 Lot-53 Blk -50 / L A.- 1,027	3,903,000
36 Lot-15 Blk -05 / L A.- 1,102	4,188,000
37 Lot-52 Blk -17 / L A - 1,130	4,294,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
38 Lot-67 Blk -48 / L A - 506	1,518,000
39 Lot-12 Blk -38 / L A.- 653	1,959,000
40 Lot-09 Blk -37 / L A - 672	2,016,000
41 Lot-35 Blk -37 / L A.- 687	2,061,000
42 Lot-07 Blk -45 / L A.- 752	2,256,000
43 Lot-06 Blk -45 / L A - 1,085	3,255,000

BULACAN - Sta. Maria	MIN BID
Sunrays Vill., Brgy. Guyong (near Delfi)	
44 Lot-27 Blk -3 / L A - 70	140,000
45 Lot-29 Blk -3 / L.A.- 70	140,000
46 Lot-31 Blk -3 / L A - 70	140,000
47 Lot-33 Blk -3 / L A - 83	166,000
48 Lot / Blk -6 / L A - 111	167,000

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
49 Lot w/ Warehse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd , Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon,Novaliches L A - 49,504 / F.A - 23,384	300,000,000
50 Lot w/ Warehse / Lot 8 & 9 Blk-S-27, Timog Ave/LA-1,380 FA-1,500 (near RCBC and GMA-7) * ON LEASE *	70,000,000
51 Lot w/ Warehse/#185 Roosevelt Ave , San Francisco Del Monte / LA-5,641 / FA-3,454 (near East-West Bank)	140,000,000

TAGUIG-Global City Fort Boni	MIN BID
(Infront of Adidas Sports Camp)	
52 Lot-2 Blk -18 / L A - 1,643	181,552,000
53 Lot-3 Blk -18 / L A - 1,643	181,552,000

VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
(access via T. Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts.)	
54 Ind'l Lot w/ Bldgs /Lot-382-G Plastic City Housing, Brgy Canumay LA-25 798/FA-5 310	51,000,000

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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LIPAT BAHAY

LBAHAY 7113540

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

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Bldg 161sqm • 456-7356

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY
418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. infrnt of
Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig
09189422422-09178212826

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

1137 E.Rodriguez Av nr Cubao
inf INC 1539m² 0916-5795795

VARIED AREAS

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950sqm & Up• P45T/sqm & Up
•Legacy @ Montgomery Place
Houses & Lots @ P13Mil & Up
Near St. Lukes Hospital QC
•Ayala Westgroove Heights •
350sqm Up w/SP Discount
•Ayala Hillside Ayala Heights •
Hse 1,300m² Over looking P65M
Ric Laudico 931-2282 / 0510
Ayala Broker 0917-6268127

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

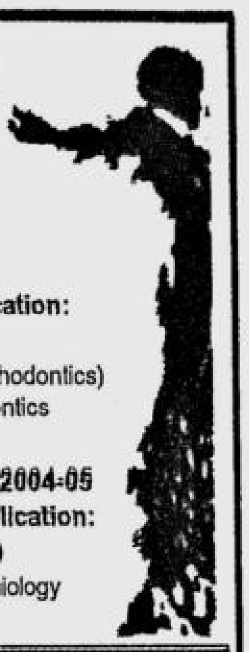
Bnew 2br 1.9M Springville 7525112

MALABON

2sty 6BR 6bth Goldendale Village
Tenejeros Malabon 242-4714

MAKATI

BELAIR 720m² 0919-8261431



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PASIG

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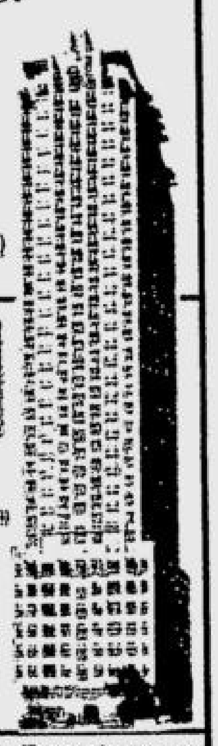

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MANILA

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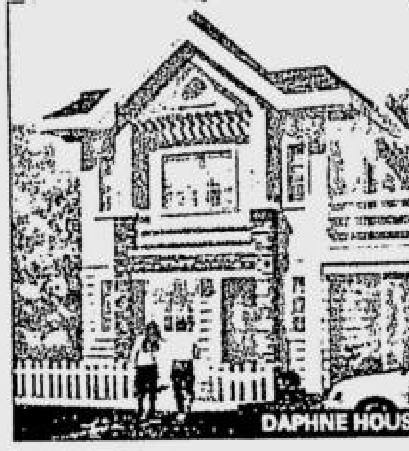

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Ayala Heights 623m² 7250041

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3BR 200m² 1.3M 3 Car Grge
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Mr. Mateo

PARANAQUE

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0916-3545276 tps

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LAGUNA

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QUEZON CITY

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Drty Ktchn 6307585

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MAKATI

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
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- 250/sq.m. Exclusive Association Dues

Room No.	Area
601-A	63.80
601-B	55.25
601-C	64.46
602-A	67.51
602-B	52.32
603-A	82.00
603-B	69.00
604-A	47.60
604-B	57.00
604-C	47.50

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MANILA

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Big Screened P4000 w/garage Mktl 7525112/0917-2090748

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7273296 / 7264371/0434

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT
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MONTERO
Model '97 / Diplomatic car
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late NAPOLEON REY HIPOLITO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 40; Page No. 8; Book No. XX; Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty Godofredo Liban II of Quezon City.
(PDI-Aug. 15, 22 & 29, 2004)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Antonio A. Ferrera has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs under Doc. 323, Page 66, Book 10, Series 2004 of Notary Public Dolorsindo I. Paner of Mla. (PDI-Aug. 15, 22, 29, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CARMEN SAN AGUSTIN was self- adjudicated to heir before Notary Public LUCILA YUTOC of Pasig City per Doc. No. 129, Page No. 24, Book No. 429. Series 2004 (PDI-Aug. 29, Sept. 5,12, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

We would like to inform the public that SKYCABLE contractor under Marinol Builders, Inc. lost an official receipt booklet of Skycable bearing the series numbers 082716 to 082750. The incident happened August 5, 2004.

LOST RECEIPT
Please be informed that City Service Corporation's official receipts with series no's 50901-50950 have been missing since May 17, 2004
Therefore, the aforementioned receipts are considered null and void.

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NFA launches iron-fortified program in Commonwealth Market

TO HELP eradicate the problem of anemia among Filipinos, the National Food Authority has formally launched in simple rites its Iron Fortification Program at the Commonwealth Market in Commonwealth, Quezon City.

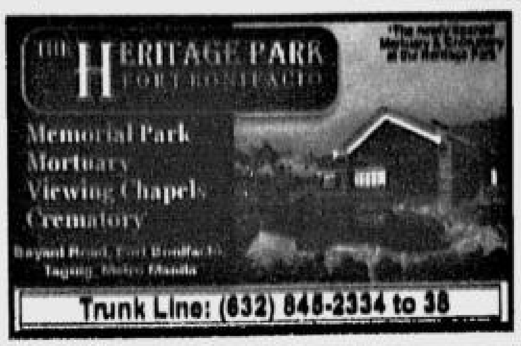
Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary and incumbent National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap headed the activity which was highlighted by a signing of a declaration of support between the NFA, DoH, consumers and rice traders, sampling of iron-fortified rice by the guests and a visit to rice outlets in the said public market.

Yap was joined by Bureau of Food and Drugs Deputy Director Edeliza Ramos representing Health (DoH) Secretary Manuel Dayrit, NFA Assistant Administrator Jessup Navarro and other officials of the DA, DoH and NFA.

The program is NFA's commitment under Reputlic Act 8976 which requires the mandatory fortification of staples such as rice, sugar, flour and cooking oil by November this year.

The NFA will sell iron-fortified rice at P21 per kilogram in premium grade variety and packed in 2-kilogram packs. It is now available for sale in various NFA-accredited rice outlets such as Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB), Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP), among others.

CONTRACT SIGNING
Philippine Daily Inquirer as major sponsor of the 2004 ASAP Conference Seated L-R Alvin R. Manacsa, Chairman, Rene Reinoso, Senior Vice President for Sales & Marketing, PDI; Afif O. Khodr, President. Starting L-R Donald Patrick L. Lim, Vice President for Marketing, PDI; Norelyn T. Babiera, Vice Prsident, Fiera de Manila and Cergen D. Go, President of Dancerg Marketing and Promotions Services.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So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered...
So truly missed...

Zenaida Quismundo Viray

Has peacefully joined her creator on August 25, 2004 at the age of 63.

Her loving children Diosdan, Christopher, Darlene, Dalia, Daisy, Doris, daughters-in-law Josephine and Jocelyn, son-in-law Exequiel and grandchildren Kathleen, Karlo, Kim, Kayee, Kristel, Prince, Angelica and Angelina, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel 6 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio.

Interment will be at The Heritage Park and the date will be announced later.

Mortuary - Crematory
THE HERITAGE PARK

Please join us in praying for the repose of the soul of our dear "Aunt Maxie"

MAXIMA DAVID DELIEN

of Angeles, Pampanga
and 900 Santa Ana Avenue, SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123, USA

who passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, on August 18, 2004 at the age of 84.

She was laid to rest after the Mass of Christian Burial on August 20, 2004 beside her beloved **"Doc Pete" (Dr. Horace DeLien,** formerly of AID, Manila), at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"Let the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
find favor before you, O Lord," (Psalm 18)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Dr. Leonardo Rios Genuino, C.P.H.M.P.H.

(Former) Prov. Health Officer of Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 21, 2004 at the age of 85.

His children and children-in-law, **Oscar** and **Malou, Fr. Oliver, Cora** and **Zakir, Drs. Jerry** and **Claire**; grandchildren **Michael, Erik John, Anna Michelle, Ibrahim, Fatima, Richard, Matthew** and **Jill Cristine**, together with his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #23 Gov. Luis Ferrer Ave., Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Interment will be on August 31, 2004 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Gen. Trias, Cavite.

ATTY. RAFAEL ALBANO AGBAYANI

of Vintar, Ilocos Norte and Bgy. Mariblo, SFDM, Quezon City
former Assistant Director of the Bureau of Domestic Trade
Department of Trade and Industry

Joined the Lord and reunited with his wife Amparo Foronda Agbayani on August 27, 2004 at the age of 85.

His children **Renato & Emelita**; grandchildren **Renall & Earl**, and **Rafael II**; siblings **Jose, Jr.** (†) **& Nora, Bienvenido & Erna, Teodoro** (†) **& Eufemia, Angelita & Segismundo** (†), **Abraham** (†) **& Haiti, Primo, Rosario** (†) **& Nery, Jesus** (†) **& Lucia**, and **Oscar & Erlinda** (†) request relatives, friends and readers to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at Chapel G, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

FE QUIAOIT SUGUITAN-CALAYCAY

of Batches: (1948) Gapan Elementary School, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija
(1952) St. Agnes Academy, Naga City and
(1956) University of the Philippines (BSED)

has peacefully left the body on August 24, 2004, is now flying free and soaring high to meet her Beloved Father at the age of 67.

Her husband **DR. EDMUND S. CALAYCAY**; precious children **BUTCH & EMILY, EDITH & ERIC** and **BETSY & JOHN**; and grandchildren **ESSAIOS KRISHNA, ELOISA RADÉ, ELEANOR DULCINEA, CHAITANYA ERIKA, JUSTINNE FRANCESSE, AARON JETHRO** and **LAKSHMI JOANNA** request the pious readers to lovingly send pure feelings and good wishes to her soul.

Her body royally lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City.

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

LAURO F. VELASQUEZ

who peacefully joined his Creator on August 23, 2004 wish to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in various ways showed their spontaneous love, sympathy and support or in one way or another condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

Fr. Bernardino Costa

S.J. – Missionary

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 27, 2004 at the age of 88.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Please pray for the repose of his soul.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord." ***2 Corinthians 5:8***

Luisa G. Ng

(a.k.a. CHONG-CHONG)

Peacefully joined the Lord on August 26, 2004 at the age of 58.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 2, 2004, 8:00 a.m. at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOSE V. RODRIGUEZ

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 19, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

EFREN DE LUNA OCAMPO

May 22, 1948 - September 3, 2003

His parents **Horacio & Vener**; sisters **Glo, Merci & Norma**; brothers **Romeo & Jerry**, and other relatives and friends request pious readers to remember **TITO EF** in their prayers.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

LIBRADA SAMONTE CRUCIDO

August 14, 2004 (Died)

wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, made donations to his favorite charities, and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of sorrow.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A warrant of arrest has been issued against **EDEN T. JOVE** (a.k.a. **EDEN TAJAS** or **JANET TAJAS** or **JANET JOVE**) of Bangag, Aparri, Cagayan and lately of Blk 5, Lot 3, Carissa Homes, North 4C San Jose, Bulacan for the crime of QUALIFIED THEFT, under Criminal Case # MC-03-7013 issued by the Regional Trial Court of Mandaluyong City, branch 213.

For any information that can lead to her arrest, please contact Phone Nos: **634-8581** (office hours) or (**0917-8522509** or **0919-2389216**) (ask for **Mila Cruz** or **Fernando Viniuan**). A reward awaits any informant who will provide reliable information that will lead to her arrest.

(PDI - August 29, 2004)

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makro
PILIPINAS MAKRO, INC.

INVITATION TO LEASE

Pilipinas Makro Inc. is inviting all interested parties to lease commercial spaces in their upcoming store in Cubao, Quezon City, located at the corner of EDSA and Main Avenue. Minimum area for lease: free-standing kiosks - 4 sqm; permanent stalls - 15 sqm; food / non-food outlets - 150 sqm. Both Food and Non-Food tenants are welcome.

Please send your letters of intent to the Business Development Department, Pilipinas Makro Inc., Km 21 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Sucat, Muntinlupa City. Or fax to 842 5856.

Deadline for submission: 15 September 2004

We also accept tenants in our 11 stores all over the country - Cainta, Imus, Novaliches, Sucat, North Harbour, Cebu, Davao, Pampanga, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, and Iloilo. For inquiries, call 842 6771.

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INQUIRER

Insurance for cellphones launched

MILLIONS of cellular phone owners in the country can now stop worrying about their phones being stolen or accidentally damaged. Now, there is a cellphone insurance that can protect them from theft and accidents.

eStandard Insurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of a leading insurer Standard Insurance, has come up with a very timely product called Txt2Protect, the first cellphone insurance in Southeast Asia.

The product is available through text messaging. One can get an insurance quote through text (key in INSURE <space> BRAND <space> MODEL and send to 283 for Smart/Talk'NText and 2333 for Globe/Touch Mobile). Bring the phone and pay the premium in any branch of Metrobank Equitable PCI Bank or Standard Insurance and the phone is insured.

eStandard president Ernesto Echauz said Txt2Protect was developed to address the rising incidents of cell phone theft in the country.

"Txt2Protect is our way of helping our countrymen have peace of mind during these hard times," he said. "By insuring their phones, they need not worry anymore if they encounter holdup men or snatchers in the streets.

Txt2Protect insures a cell phone owner against the loss of his or her phone through snatchings, holdups and theft. It also insures the owner from damage on his phone due to accidents.

In case of loss, eStandard would replace the cellphone with exactly the same model or a phone with the same value if the original model is no longer available. In case of accidental damage, eStandard will shoulder the cost of the phone's repair.

Insurance premium is very affordable and is based on the value of the cellphone's brand and model. All premiums are paid one-time as policies are quoted for an annual coverage.

There are some 28 million cellphone owners in the country, but eStandard is targeting owners in the broad middle segment of the spectrum, especially those who can only afford to change handsets every two to three years.

"We also want parents to know about this product. They can insure the cellphone of their children, especially their teenagers. If the cellphone is insured, they can stop worrying for their son's or daughter's safety," said Echauz.

For more information, call eStandard Insurance customer service hotline 845-1111.

ARANETA CENTER IS NOW PEZA REGISTERED

Araneta Center Inc (ACI) was recently awarded a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) registration which officially recognizes Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center as Information Technology (IT) buildings. IT buildings or parks are areas that provide amenities and infrastructure support necessary for the promotion of the IT industry. Araneta Center's Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center are expected to be the next IT hub in Quezon City. Present during the signing were ACI president and COO Teofilo R. Asuncion (2nd from left) and Peza director general Lilia B. De Lima (2nd from right). The signing was witnessed by Progressive Development Corporation vice president for business John Castelo (left) and Araneta Center research manager Eugene Barcelona.

Welcome!
Guests and Participants
LIRL TREE PLANTING
ARBOR DAY JUNE 2004
SITIO
MR. CHUA PHUAY
MR KHOO BOO BOON
MR. FELICITO PAYUMO
CHAIRMAN

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS HOLDS TREE PLANTING PROJECT

In a meaningful demonstration of its concern for the environment, Legend International Resorts Ltd (LIRL), owner and operator of Subic's Legenda Hotel, Grand Seasons and Legenda Suites, recently held a tree planting activity in Sitio Agusuhin, Redondo Peninsula. Sitio Agusuhin, located west across Subic Bay, was established as a training ground by the US marine amphibious force and is now under the political jurisdiction of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. Legend International Resorts has been very active in its advocacy for environment protection and preservation with past events and projects benefiting Haribon Foundation's GuBAT Learning Center in Subic and SBMA Ecology Center's forest fire management program. The group, composed of officers and staff, was headed by LIRL chief executive officer Khoo Boo Boon and LIRL chief operating officer Chua Hwa Phuay.

Footworx-Sta. Lucia is All-KDA champ

FOOTWORX-Sta. Lucia emerged overall champion for the fourth consecutive time of the All-KDA (Karate Development Arts and Sports) Karatedo Championships held at the Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) gym last July 31.

Double gold winners in the kata and kumite events for 10-12 years old were siblings Jhustine Jel Rala and Joel Rala, in the female and male category, respectively. Other winners were John Angelo Gerard Calbario (8-9 years old, gold, male kumite), John Dale Fabella (8-9 years old, gold, male kata; and bronze, male kumite), Kenneth Cuden (under 7 yrs. old, gold, male kata; and bronze, male kumite), Carenlia de Castro (13-15 years old, gold, female kata; and bronze, female kumite), Aliza Concepcion (13-15 years old, gold, female kumite; and silver, female kata), Jerome Carandang (bronze, male kumite 75 kg.), Reden Cuden (8-9, bronze, male kata), Rachelle Cuden (13-15 silver, female kumite; and bronze, female kata), Madel Cruz (double silver, 10-12 female kata/kumite), Sharmaine Joy Manalansan (double bronze, 10-12 female kata/kumite), Jolean Rala (double silver, 8-9 male kata/kumite), and Jozel Manalang (8-9, bronze, female kata).

Footworx-Sta. Lucia is at the 3rd level of the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

Tri-Isys: 8 years of Internet reliability

INTERNET, as we know it today came to the Philippines in the early 90's with just a few companies enjoying its benefits. A decade after, it has become an important venue for information and it is used to further develop e-commerce, professional and personal communication, research and online gaming. The Internet became popular due largely to its affordability and global appeal especially to a techno-savvy and multi-media generation. The Internet boom led to diverse IT-based businesses including internet service providers (ISP). A lot of ISP companies are operating nationwide giving consumers varied options in terms of service and pricing scheme.

This August, Inter-Island Information Systems or Tri-Isys Internet celebrates 8 years of fast and affordable Internet service to thousands of Filipinos. Owning over 35 percent of the prepaid Internet card market, Tri-Isys boasts of leadership on top of being one of the pioneers in the industry.

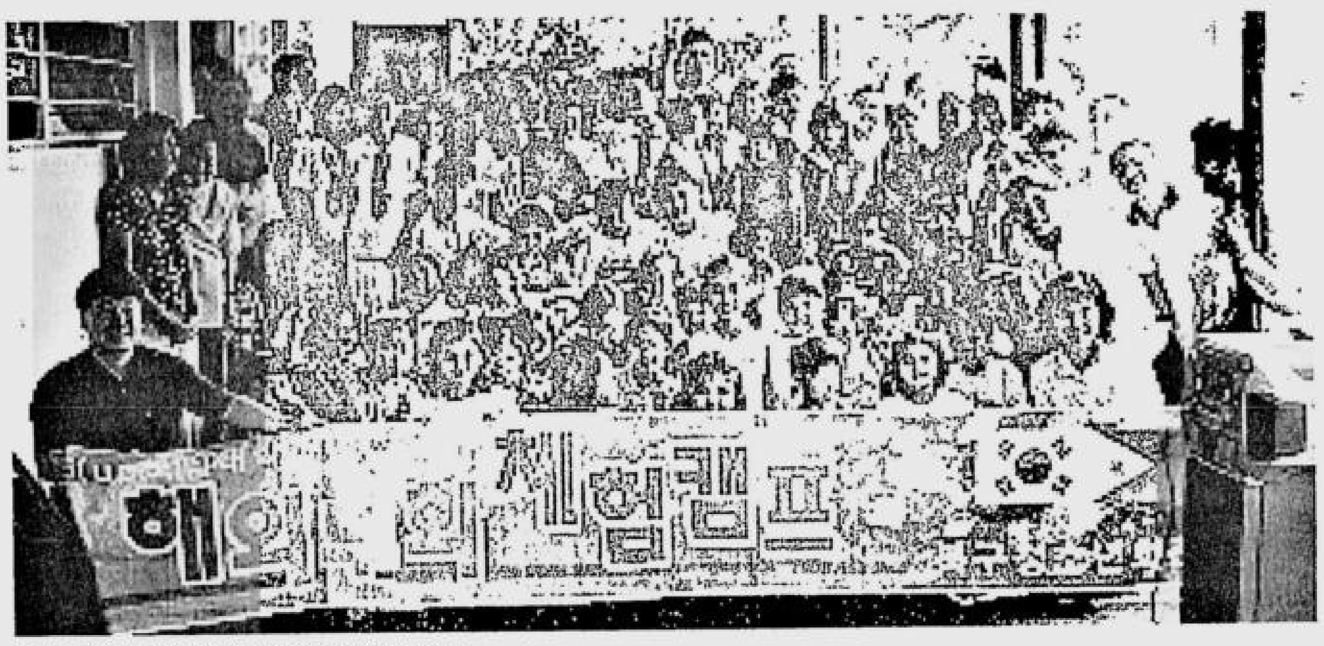
Tri-Isys has grown steadily and has consistently maintained strategic improvements in the IT trade through its team of highly-qualified professionals and engineers who ensure the technical effectiveness of its products and customer services at all times. The research and development group also consistently delivers new ideas and new service concepts to keep the consumer base very satisfied and delighted. Simply put, Tri-Isys' main purpose is to reach all corners of the consumer market and make the "information highway" accessible to everyone.

Tri-Isys, as can be attested to by their hundreds of thousands of loyal users, has proven that Internet access need not be expensive. And this they have done through the introduction of their two major products, ISPx Bonanza prepaid cards and Tri-Isys Powersurf postpaid plans. These brands continue to improve its service at very affordable prices. ISPx Bonanza recently came up with P30 (5 hours access) and P60 (10 hours access) denomination cards to cater to the younger and cost-conscious market. As a reflection of true customer service, these cards even come with free access from 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. As if lacking in perks, Tri-Isys even provide their subscribers with 6 free 100MB email boxes and 20MB of free webspace. With Tri-Isys, you get real value for your money.

Last month, Tri-Isys launched its newest "value for money" product, the Tri-Isys Powersurf postpaid plans. It features two subbrands, Powersurf Unlimited only P440 monthly (VAT inclusive) and Powersurf Metered for as low as P220 a month (VAT inclusive). Along with the unbelievably affordable price, Powersurf uses the same reliable network and comes with all the benefits of the other Tri-Isys Internet products, such as the 6 free emails of 100MB each and 20MB web space.

Aside from prepaid and postpaid Internet access, it also has web hosting services for those who want to set up their own websites and ISPx Web Accelerator which increases surfing speed up to three times faster or more using your usual dial-up connection.

Come and visit our website, www.tri-isys.com or www.ispx.com.ph if you want to avail our ever reliable Internet services. Or call us at 245-9460 for more details.



KOREAN STUDENTS VISIT PWU

United Korean Community Association Inc continuously supports Korea's strife Online guistic progress through scholastic programs. In cooperation with Philippine Women's University, Daegu Buk-gu Youth Center facilitated a series of activities for eighteen elementary and high school Korean students. Seo Young Woo, vice president of Daegu Buk-gu Youth Center, felt gratitude as PWU principal Luciano warmly accommodated the Korean students to observe actual classes and interactively mingle with the PWU elementary students last Aug. 5. Supported by United Korean Community Association Inc Language Department the said program went smoothly for the Korean students, aided with the basic but essential communications skills in the English language. This momentous activity is apparently an efficient experience to the Korean students that would be a great start for their language excellency.

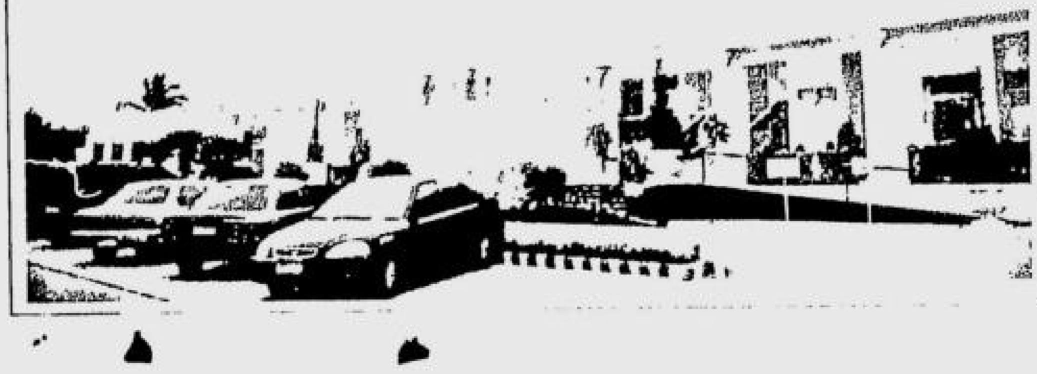
THRIFT BANKS AND BSP

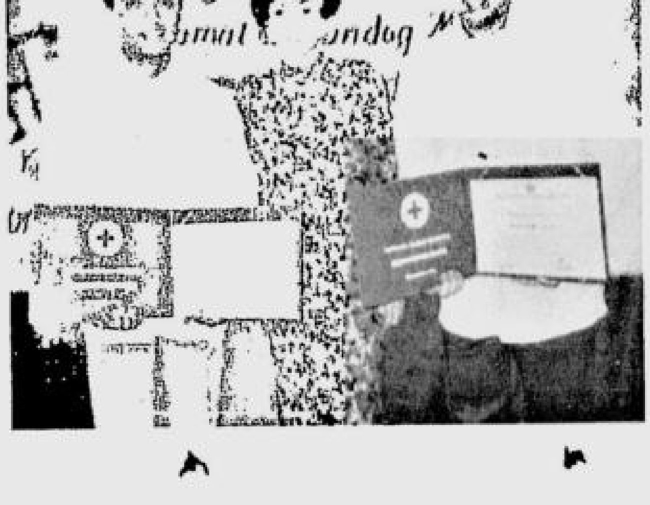
The officers and directors of the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB) recently called on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials to affirm support to BSP reform initiatives. These include the proposal for it to act as the banking industry's credit information bureau. Seated from left are: CTB executive director Suzanne Felix, BSP Director Candon Guerrero, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and Belen Castro of Premiere Bank. Standing: CTB president Tomas Clemente Jr. (Luzon Development Bank), Eric Mondragon (Palawan Bank), Violeta Inocencio (Farmers Savings & Loan Bank), Lolita Simpao (Bataan Savings & Loan Bank), Aurelio Montinola III (BPI Family Bank), Evangeline Escobillo (Anchor Savings Bank), Rogelio Florete (Queen City Development Bank), Ma. Flordelis Aguenza (Planters Bank), Susan Figueras (Insular Savings Bank).

ProductFILES

Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels offers franchise

COSMOPOLITAN Memorial Chapels, a leader in the Philippine funeral home industry, formally launched its franchise operations at the Franchise Expo 2004 at the World Trade Center on July 16 to 18. After 54 years experience in the industry, the franchise program promises to bring international standard funeral direction and deathcare products to the Philippine market on a global scale. Cosmopolitan is the first world-class Filipino funeral home recognized by international organizations such as the NFDA (National Funeral Directors Association) and Cana (Crematorium Association of North America). Potential franchisees may choose among a variety of franchise packages all designed for turn-key operations. They will also have full access to technical and operational training as well as the complete array of products from Cosmopolitan and international suppliers. Interested parties may direct their inquiries to Cosmpolitan's main business center at (032) 231-0721. Shown is Cosmopolitan's Camus branch in Davao City.



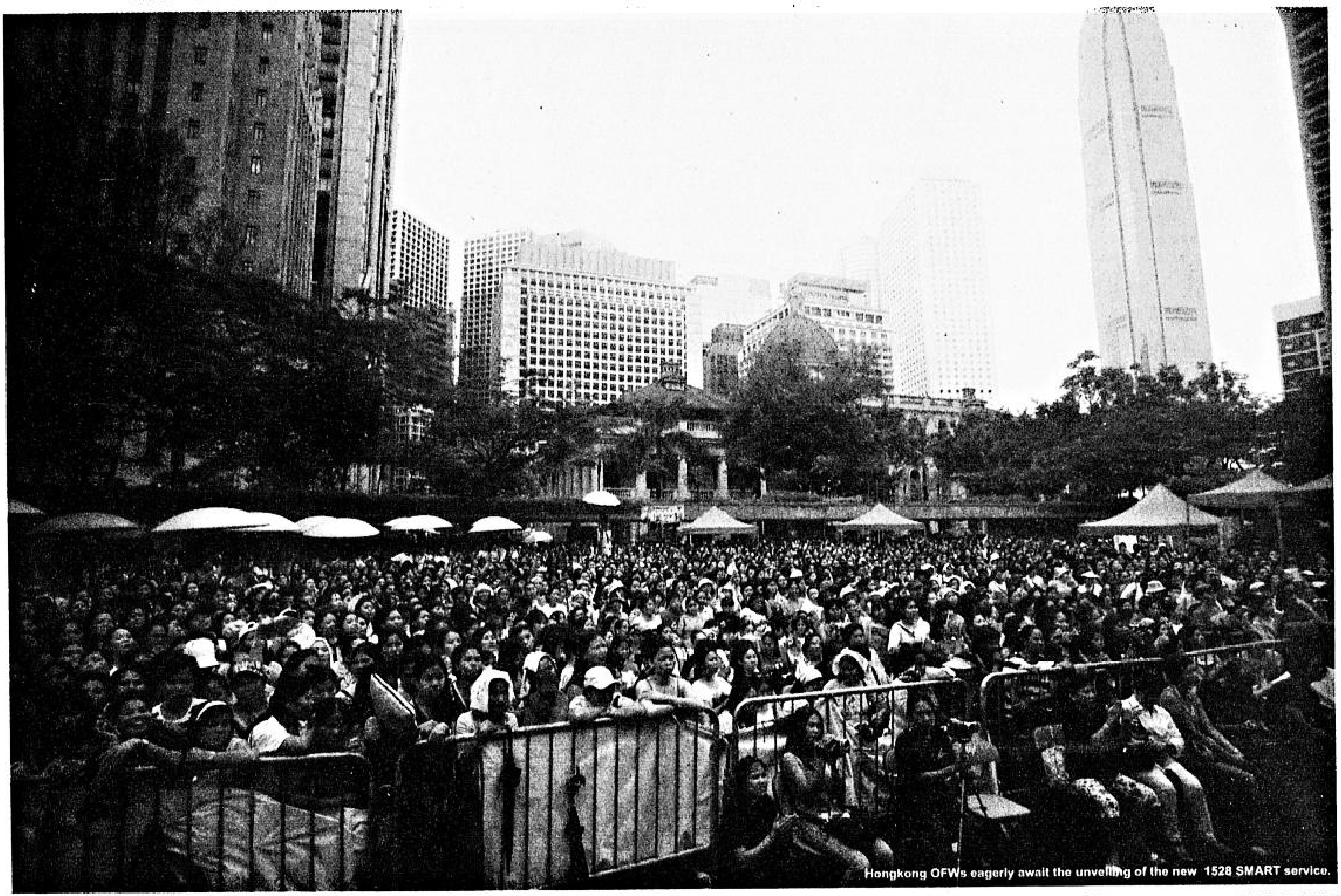


DUGONG BOMBO SETS RECORD

Never in the history of any blood donation campaign in the country has there been so much blood donors in a single day as the one organized by Bombo Radyo Philippines during its blood-letting project last July 24 dubbed Dugong Bombo. An unprecedented 3,661 donors willingly gave their precious blood simultaneously in 26 areas nationwide and was able to generate 1.6 million cc of blood, equivalent to 153 cases of 380ml softdrink bottles with a commercial value worth P5.5 million. Dugong Bombo is another public service project of Bombo Radyo and Star FM geared towards saving lives especially for the underprivileged. July 2004 is observed in the country as Blood Donor's Month. PNRC Gov. Rosa Rosal awards the plaque of appreciation to Bombo Radyo Phils for its record-breaking nationwide blood-letting project. Receiving the award in behalf of the network are George B. Castro (left), research and creative director and Orly Pangcog senior area manager Star FM

1528 SMART

SMART and PLDT Global Launch New Service for OFWs


Hongkong OFWs eagerly await the unveiling of the new 1528 SMART service.

Last Sunday, August 22, 2004 saw the unveiling of a new wireless service at Chater Gardens, Hong Kong. This pre-launch of 1528 SMART dubbed "Pinoy Fiesta" signalled a new response to OFW needs to improve their lives as well as their families' welfare.

As of presstime, 1528 SMART will celebrate with "Pinoy Idols" its much awaited full-scale Launch at the Hong Kong Coliseum -- an even more spectacular lineup of stars and activities for the eager throngs of Hong Kong OFWs. Clearly, there is reason for them to be happy.

1528 SMART will give Filipinos in Hong Kong access to their favorite SMART mobile services and content through a 3-way partnership between SMART, a 100% PLDT-owned subsidiary and the leader in Philippine wireless, PLDT Global, PLDT's international consumer arm, as well as leading Hong Kong mobile carrier HK CSL. For the over 180,000 OFWs living in Hong Kong, the 1528 SMART wireless service aims to keep them in touch with their family and friends at home via voice, text, and other value-added services particularly innovations such as SMART Load, SMART PasaLoad, and now the latest cash remittance thru text, SMART Padala that SMART has championed.

After starting with a mass celebrated by Msgr. Tom Gonzalez, the festivities kicked off from Chater Garden. Celebrities Ai-ai de las Alas and Ate Glow lauded how innovative the 1528 SMART service was, particularly for Pinoys and OFWs making a living in Hong Kong.

"SMART and PLDT Global bring to the table a wide array of strengths and expertise in forging future international partnerships," says Manny Pangilinan, PLDT and SMART Chairman.

Boy Martirez, SMART Personal Communications and Mobile Services Division Head, and Al Panlilio, President of PLDT Global, took turns onstage describing the benefits of 1528 SMART and describing how much the service meant specifically to OFWs. Actress/singer Rica Peralejo sang and danced to the delight of the audience, while teen heartthrob Justin Cuyugan sang for the very appreciative crowd. The hosts also engaged the crowd in a few games, giving away free pillows as well as free trials of the 1528 SMART service. Hong Kong-based Filipino organizations such as the Mindanao Federation, the Cordillera Group, Leyte Achievers Club, Bayanihan Dancers, and the Mindoro Association, had representatives perform native dances showcasing their talents.

Wesley Cheng, Assistant General Manager of HK CSL, stated that, "We are very happy to be a partner of SMART Communications, who happens to be the best telecommunications company in the Philippines." He added that, "HK CSL is also very happy to share our resources in providing the best services to Filipinos here in Hong Kong. The partnership with SMART and PLDT Global expertise ensures this"

All content will be "Pinoy based", bringing homesick OFWs all the latest happenings and trends from home.

The second part of this offering to OFWs from PLDT and SMART is going to be held today in Hong Kong Coliseum. The "Pinoy Idols" event will be a free concert to be headlined by hosts Kris Aquino and Ogie Alcasid, "Concert Queen" Pops Fernandez, and more top Filipino entertainers. Special guests will include Senator Bong Revilla and SMART Padala endorser Robin Padilla. "Pinoy Idols" will see free phones being raffled off as part of the 1528 SMART launch.

Even as OFWs give something back to their friends and families abroad, SMART wants to give something back to those same OFWs. These individuals put their families' needs and wants above their own, thus earning the title of "Mga Bagong Bayani". As SMART has done with Filipinos of all ages, SMART now addresses the exact needs of the Filipino, albeit in another country. With free concerts like "Pinoy Fiesta", today's "Pinoy Idols" and more importantly the 1528 SMART wireless service, SMART and PLDT Global also want to give them a taste of home, something they richly deserve.

The 1528 SMART Pinoy Center is at Dah Shing Life Building, 99 Des Veoux Road cor. Jubilee Street, Central Hong Kong.

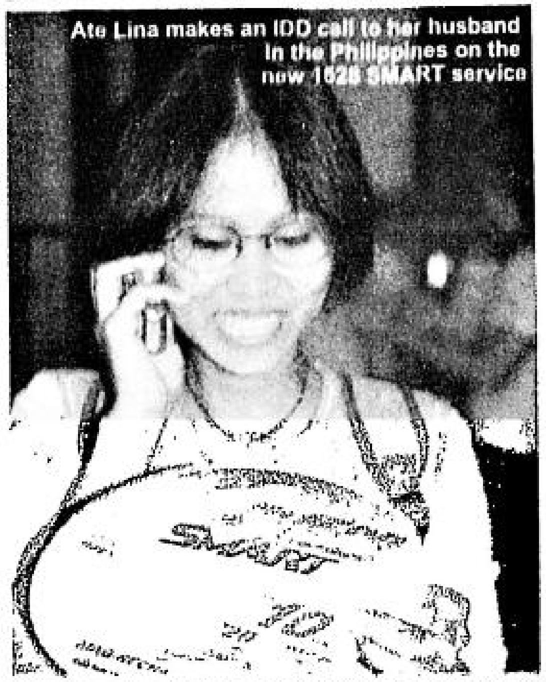
Lucky winners of the 1528 SMART game with their prizes.

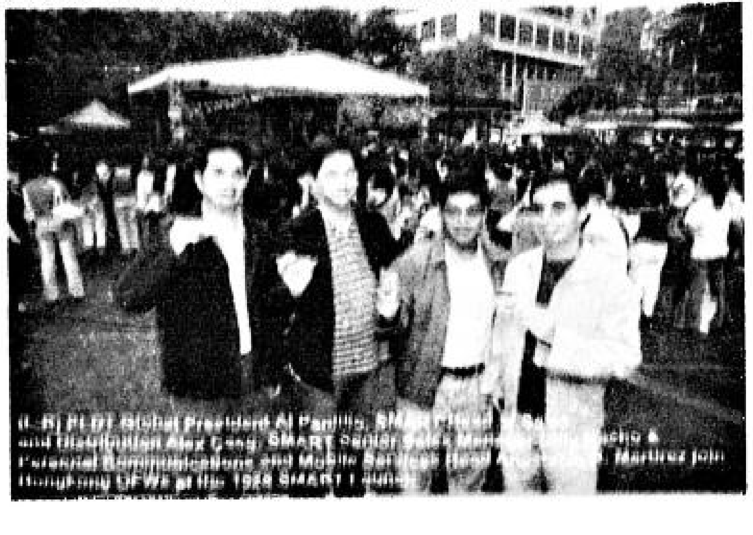
Rica Peralejo greets the adoring crowd.

At center is SMART PCMSD Head Boy Martirez, announcing the arrival of 1528 SMART. To his right is PLDT Global President Al Panlilio

"Let's hear it!" Ate Glow and her PSG welcome 1528 SMART

Ang Tawag sa PINOY... SMART
What a site: OFWs lining up around the corner for 1528 SMART


Ate Lina makes an IDD call to her husband in the Philippines on the new 1528 SMART service


(L-R) PLDT Global President Al Panlilio, SMART [illegible] and Distribution Alex Cang, SMART Senior Sales Manager [illegible] & Personal Communications and Mobile Services Head [illegible] Martirez join Hongkong OFWs at the 1528 SMART Launch.

Monsignor Tom [illegible] starts with a [illegible]

- *Home*
- *Travel*
- *Weddings*
- *Surprises*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2004

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Zoo ahoy!

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

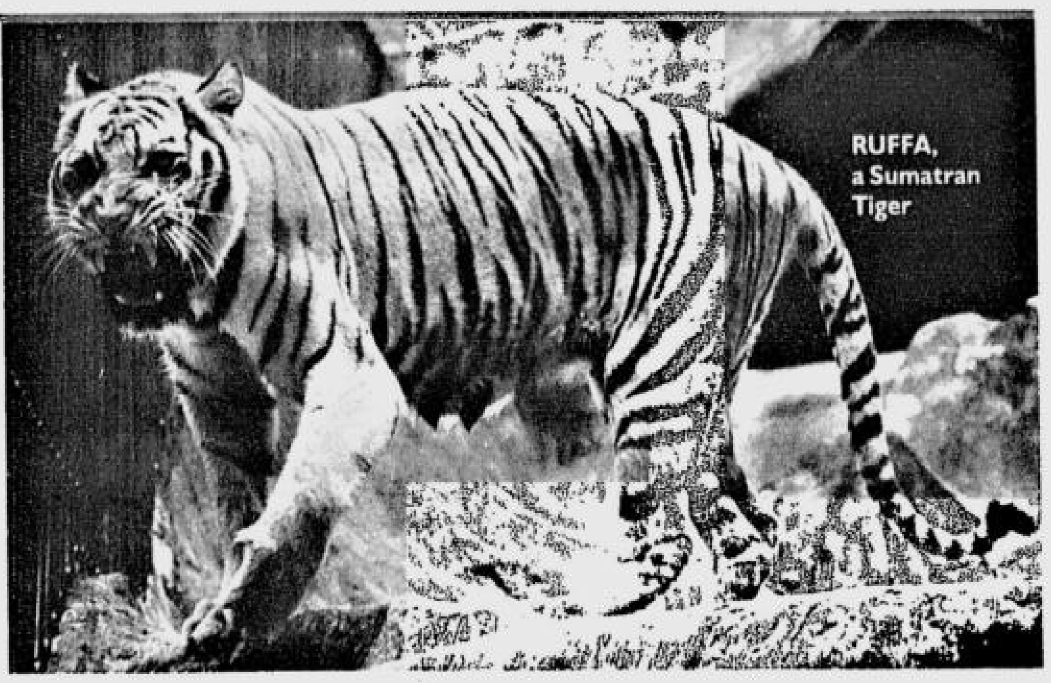
WHEN lions roar, everybody listens. Take the case of this new wildlife sanctuary in Montalban, Rizal, which sprang to life, so to speak, from a lion's roar.

More than 10 years ago, a peaceful neighborhood in suburban Metro Manila was often terrified when a deafening, beast-like guttural sound would tear through the quiet afternoon air. The sound, horrific and bloodcurdling, was guaranteed to send chills down everyone's spine.

The sound came from an adult lion named Io, the unconventional household pet of the extraordinary and eccentric animal lover Jake Gaw, who acquired the animal when it was a mere cub of three months.

But in a town where barking dogs and cat's meows were the norm, Io's increasingly mighty roar was a distraction the neighbors thought they could live—and sleep—without.

ZOO/C2

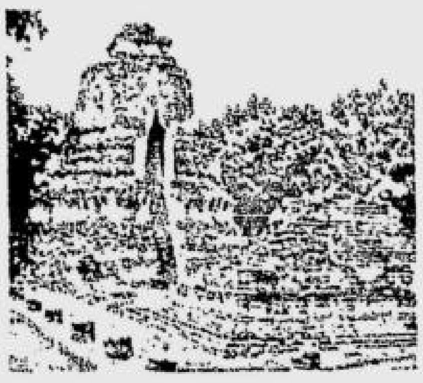


RUFFA, a Sumatran Tiger

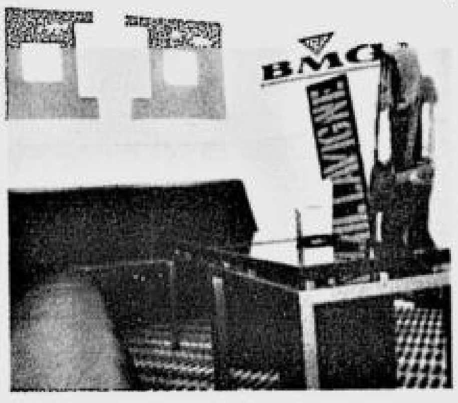
IN THIS ISSUE

GILDA Cordero Fernando's next-of-kin foodies /D1

PATIS Tesoro goes for sweet and sassy /E1



AYUTTHAYA snapshots /G1



SING out of the box /H1

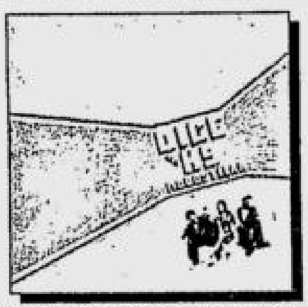
STAR fragrances /J1

DREAM come true /K1

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
music
Your access to all music!
Shake it with the phattest crew
DICE AND K9
MOBBSTARR
with their chart-toppin' hit,
"Itsumo"

Get down with the Pinoy flava of Dice & K9 and other hip-hoppin' artists!

Download or subscribe to trivia, tones and images for a chance to win:
• SMART Load • Sony Ericsson T100, T230 or T630 handsets!



The Mobbstars from Cebu invade Manila, feat. the nationwide phenomenal hit ITSUMO. Album out now!

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LOGOS

RAP1 RAP7 RAP2 RAP8 RAP3 RAP9 RAP4 RAP10 RAP5 RAP12 RAP6 RAP13

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RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Itsumo	Dice and K9	RAP1
Best Friends	Dice and K9	RAP2
Benefit Of The Doubt	Artstrong	RAP3
Roses	Outkast	RAP4
The Way You Move	Outkast	RAP5
Overnight Celebrity	Twista	RAP6
Slow Jamz	Twista	RAP7
Sunshine	Twista	RAP8
Baby Boy	Sean Paul	RAP9
Get Busy	Sean Paul	RAP10
Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	RAP11
Hey Mama	Black Eyed Peas	RAP12
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	RAP13
APL Song	Black Eyed Peas	RAP14
Hey Ya	Outkast	RAP15

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PICTURE MESSAGES

RAP1
RAP4
phat
RAP9
playas
RAP13
dang!
RAP7
baller
RAP15

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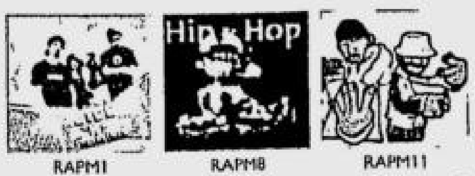
MMS



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Logos, Picture Messages, MMS Images, and Tones are P15.00 each. Text messages cost P2.50 each.

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Promo period: August 7 to September 30, 2004.
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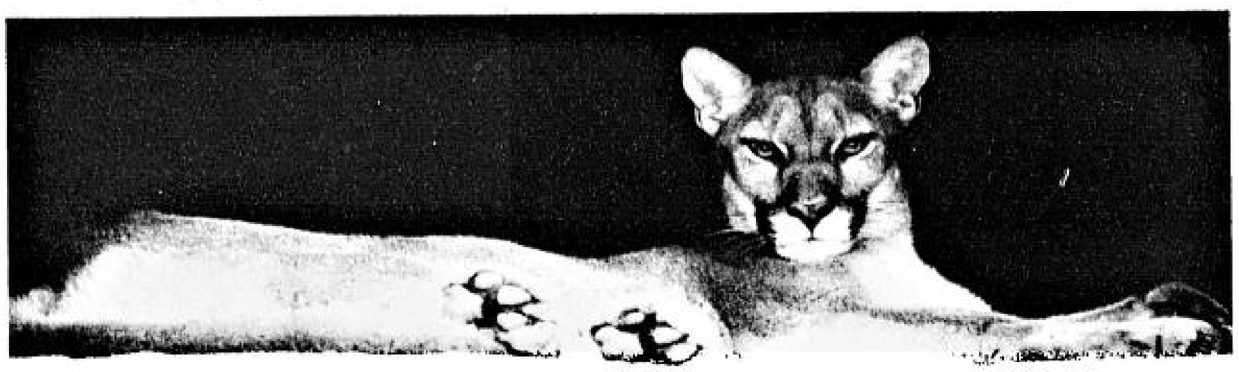
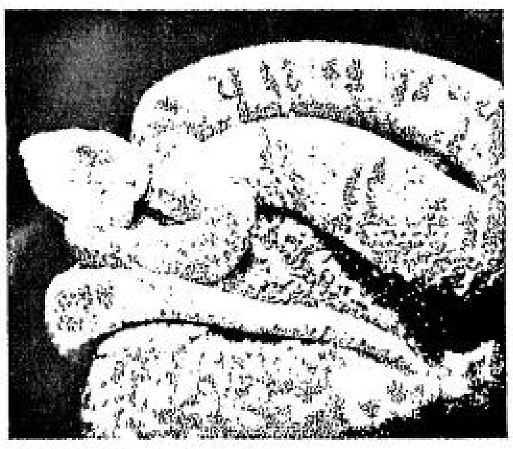

PUMA

THE NOCTURNAL Malayan tapir


LUZON Wagler's Pit Viper

Zoo ahoy!

The Avilon Montalban Zoological Park houses close to 500 species of some 3,000 big and small animals, 60 percent of them endemic to the Philippines

SLOW Loris

BLACK-EARED marmoset from South America

CAPYBARA, the world's largest rodent

COMMON Collared Lizard

PHILIPPINE Crocodile

From page C1

New home

When complaints began flooding in, Gaw knew he had to find a new home for his growing menagerie (he also had a python, among other animals, although none as "high profile" as Io). And so he bought a 7.5-ha rice land in the bucolic, laid-back town of Montalban, where his animals could flourish undisturbed and Io could roar to his heart's content.

In Montalban, Gaw created a private menagerie for family gatherings. Building a zoo open to the public was the farthest thing on his mind. He then began designing and constructing cages, landscaping, planting trees and shrubs, placing stones and pebbles and gathering animals from the world over for his sheer private pleasure.

"*Ang tipid ko, ano?*," he says, laughing. "This work is my expression."

It was not until five years ago that, upon the suggestion of his wife, Tina, Gaw decided to open the place to the public. He renovated the zoo and added a reception area, a restaurant/snack bar area, a souvenir shop, more restrooms, etc. and, more importantly, more animals.

Gaw was not spared the frustrations and anxieties of a start-up enterprise. A section had to be renovated all over because the design was not good enough to contain the animal. Or an animal he had been taking care of for years died.

"I was building a zoo and I wasn't even an architect. Apart from the emotional investment, I was spending money and effort on a place I didn't even know the public would like," he says.

When he poured out his heart to a friend, he was given a quote from a Hollywood movie that proved prophetic: "If you build it, they will come."

Burning mission

And come the public did.

Now known as the Avilon Montalban Zoological Park, run by the Avilon Wildlife Conservation Foundation with Gaw at the helm of the board of trustees, the zoo houses close to 500 species of some 3,000 big and small animals, 60 percent of them endemic to the Philippines.

From reptiles to mammals to birds, from tarantulas to scorpions, from the world's largest tapir to the smallest bear, from the world's largest freshwater fish (arapaima, at 8 ft) to the largest rodent to the smallest mouse deer, the animals are under the custody of 64 regular staff and seven supervisors, curators and vets.

Although the zoo is only 70 percent complete and only thrives on word-of-mouth advertising—a grand opening is still in the works—student groups already frequent the Avilon on weekdays, and families on weekends.

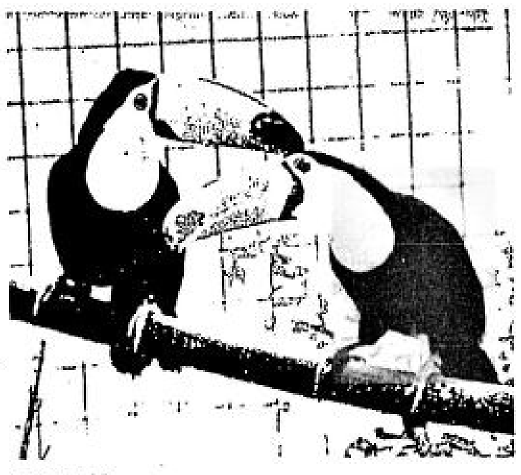
What started for Gaw as a passionate hobby is now a burning mission to conserve and breed animals, and to educate the Filipino youth. Entertainment, he says, is the least of the Avilon's aims. In fact, the zoo's breeding center has recently been successful in breeding Gray's monitor lizards, one of the world's rarest, prompting Discovery Channel to shoot a documentary of it.

"My philosophy now is very different. I don't acquire animals for kicks anymore. I want Filipinos, especially children, to become appreciative of animals. You cannot think of preserving and protecting something without first learning how to appreciate it," he says.

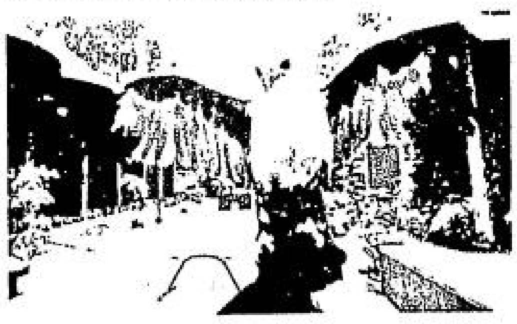
For instance, only in the Philippines, says Gaw, are zoo-goers likely to make comments on such as: "*Bayawak, pare! Masarap gawing adobo 'yan. Lasang manok!*" He says Filipinos either shoo an animal away or shoot it and eat it. It is this mindset that Gaw wishes to change.

For this reason, tours run on prearranged schedules, with accredited, knowledgeable and trained tour guides leading the way. Visitors are never allowed to walk by themselves. Eating is prohibited, and cameras are not allowed in certain areas.

A FLOCK of flamingoes


TOCO Toucan

VICTORIA Crowned Pigeons


BRAHMINY Kite

Despite the pretty facade, however, Gaw is the first to say that no matter how well a zoo is built, it will always be a poor imitation of nature.

"A small maya can fly a 2-ha rice field. How can you build a 2-ha cage for it? Imagine yourself living with your brothers and sisters and not meeting anyone else," he says.

Homage to a lion

Many of the animals, says zoo coordinator Steph Joven, were acquired from zoos abroad, making them second-, third- or fourth-generation animals born and bred in captivity. The Avilon has a hospital where the animals' health is regularly monitored, and an animal kitchen that prepares meals for each animal's peculiar taste.

A king cobra, for example, only eats snakes, while other animals prefer live crickets and grasshoppers, fruits, veggies, lizards, raw meats for up to 6 kg per day, pellets, etc.

The Avilon is currently working on bringing in more large animals—elephants from Thailand, giraffe, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, zebras, etc. A large aquarium display is also under construction. A periodic exhibit highlighting certain animals will soon be ready to make the learning process more fun to visitors.

The zoo also tries to entertain its guests, with bird shows at the Birds of Prey area, where animals are brought out in the open.

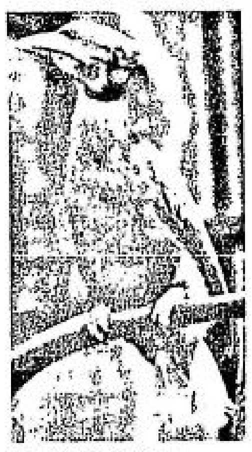
Io, the roaring lion that started it all, is now a 16-year-old beast aging gracefully at the zoo's breeding center. The Avilon's logo, a lion's paw, is the zoo's homage to him.

"I want the zoo to make its mark on the youth, to leave its paw prints on them," says Gaw.

An entrance fee of P180 is charged per person. Call telefax 6345550 or text (0917) 899-5126 for directions and tour schedule.

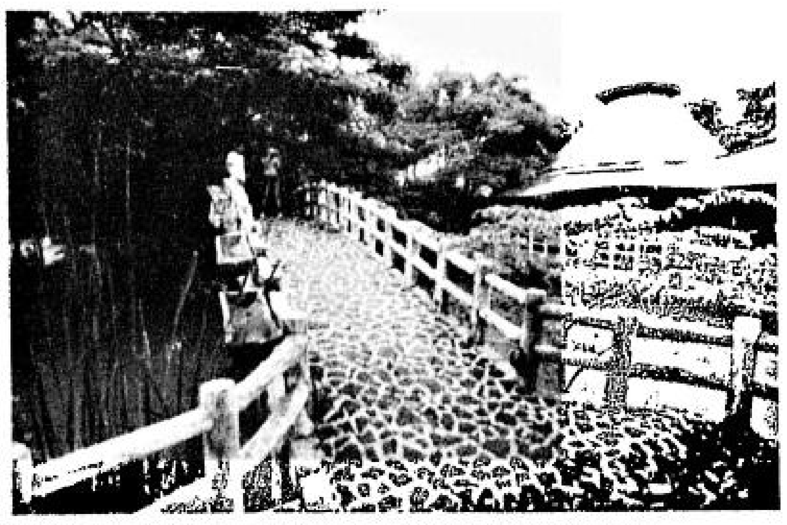
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

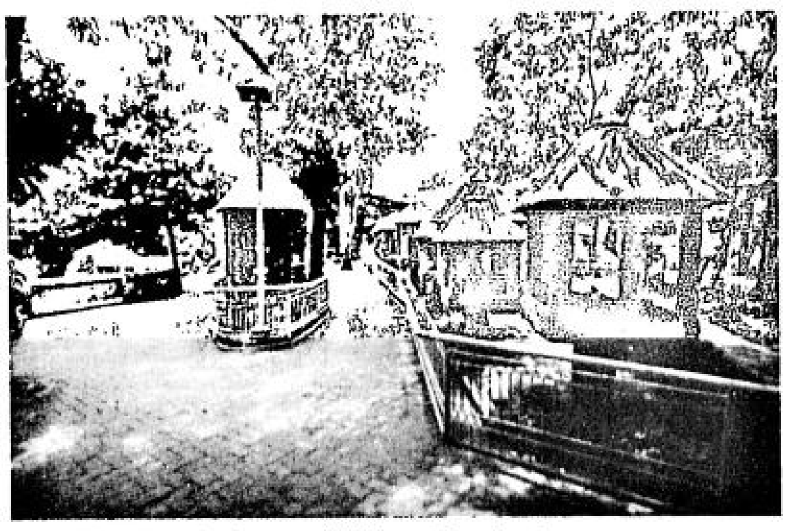
PHILIPPINE Eagle Owl

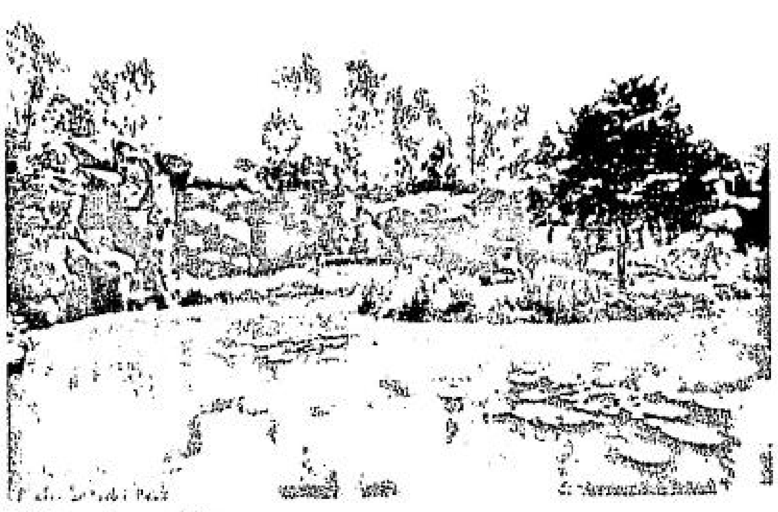

LUZON Rufous Hornbill

CASSOWARY

OSTRICH


THIS BRIDGE leads to the zoo's snack bar and restaurant.


PARAKEETS and other small birds are kept in these cages.


THE zoo's own lake

Patroness of barren women

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MILLIONS of women must have begged the Virgin of Montserrat since the image was found in a cave in 1026 to bless their wombs so they could have a child. Strange light and music emanated from the cave.

A church was finally built for the "La Morenita," so-called because of her brown skin. The church on the Catalonian mountain near Barcelona, Spain, has become a magnificent basilica.

We, pilgrims in the Adam's Travel group, went up the stairs to the throne of the Virgin to pray and drop petitions in a box beside her.

Later, we went to the crypt below the altar and heard Mass celebrated by Fr. Carlito Pono. Our priest was so overwhelmed to say Mass there for the first time that he cried. I also cried, overwhelmed that we came from so far away and were brought to Montserrat to pray to Our Lady.

I am sure we were there with the help of Divine Grace. "And if we were brought here by the Virgin," asked Father Pono, "what can we give up for her?"

The first time I was in Montserrat was in 1997, when Sally Maddatu of World's Wonders invited me to join her Marian pilgrimage. That first experience was also overwhelming. We listened to 30 monks dressed in black vestments sing the Mass.

The second time was even more overwhelming because we heard for the first time the singing of the "Escalonia" by a children's choir at 1 p.m. The basilica was full and everybody was quiet when the children sang the "Salve Regina."

What was amazing was how the monastery of the Benedictines, who run the basilica and the church itself, was built on the high Catalonian mountain, which you could see going up.

Medical help

Physicians for Peace, which reaches out to poor nations through medicine, has arrived in the Philippines, making us the latest nation that the charitable organization is helping.

The Philippine chapter was founded by Dr. Juan Montero, a North Virginia-based Filipino surgeon and a native of Surigao del Sur, with other Filipino doctors in Manila. It practices the second greatest Commandment: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as yourself."

Physicians for Peace was founded by Dr. Charles Horton Sr. in Norfolk, North Virginia, in 1984. Its motto is: "Building peace and international friendship through medicine."

Aside from medical volunteer support, PFP donates medical and dental equipment, medicines and supplies. The donations are complemented by program support to ensure proper use and access to servicing and parts when needed.

The PFP believes sharing knowledge and creating understanding among people of different nations help create a better world. Knowledge is power, and Physicians for Peace hopes to share this power with people around the world.

RP programs

Walking Free Philippines, according to Dr. David Young, will provide raw materials and equipment for the local manufacture of prosthetics or artificial limbs and arms. Dr. Young was here for the launching of the PFP Philippines at the Glaxo-Smithkline in Makati, courtesy of Noel Isberto.

A hospital ship was bought in Australia in a tie-up with the Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue ships. It will be equipped with medical surgical equipment.

PFP will donate medical equipment to hospitals in need and conduct medical missions. It will also develop a tuberculosis management program to train people to manage TB patients and get involved in community health development activities.

North Virginia-based Dr. James Gordon, an ophthalmologist, says, as there is only one eye bank in the country (in Manila), another one will be opened in Cebu, in cooperation with the Lions and Rotary Clubs.

PFP sent 11,000 pairs of eyeglasses to Cebu, while 5,000 pairs are at the Philippine General Hospital for the poor. It also donated a machine for cataract operation to World City Medical Center.

The officers of PFP Philippines are Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, chair of the PGH emergency department, as president; Dr. Jimmy Montoya, vice president; Dr. Ma. Theresa Mercado, secretary; Arlyn Grace Guico, treasurer; Sylvia Ordoñez, auditor; and Lynne Abanilla, executive director.

Trustees are Lito Aseniero, Dr. Josephine Bundoc, Dr. Elsa V. Castro, Dr. Mario de Villa, Ramon Guico III, Noel Isberto, Dr. Josie Isidro, Robert Lane, Dr. Nathaniel Magpantay, Dr. Reynaldo Nambayan and Dr. Kim Pascual.

So far, there are 100 volunteer doctors in the country. Those who wish to volunteer, even if they are not doctors, can text Lynne Abanilla at 0917-8280519.

Physicians
Glax

VOLUNTEER Physicians for Peace: Dr. James Gordon, Dr. Juan Montero II and Dr. Ted Herbosa with Lynne Abanillas

Marian pilgrimage

Economy Travel and Tours has a tour leaving Manila on Oct. 16 for Amsterdam to visit the shrine of Our Lady of All Nations, then Banneux to pray to the Virgin of the Poor. From Banneux, the group goes to Beauriang to visit Our Lady of the Golden Heart.

Also in the itinerary are Paris, Nevers, Paray le Monial, Carcasonne, Lourdes, Zaragosa, Madrid, Avila, Salamanca and the shrine of Our Lady of Peñafrancia; then Fatima, Santarem, Lisbon and Rome. Call 3022519 or text Flor Ragunton at 0918-9279881.

Trip to Medjugorje

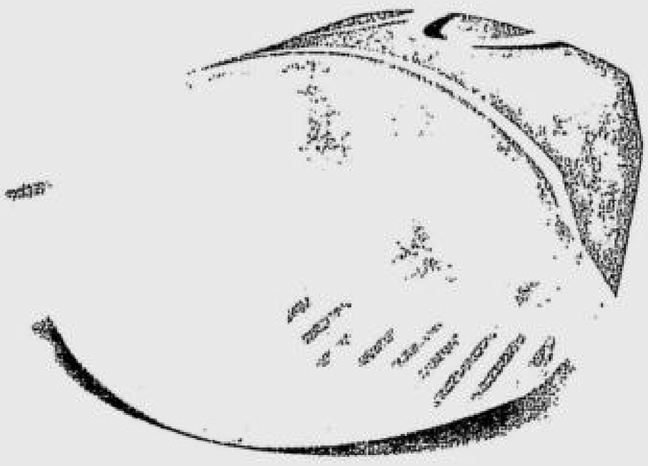
Travel agent Elenita Grande invites Marian devotees on a trip to Medjugorje on Oct. 8. The itinerary covers other Marian shrines like Lourdes, Fatima and Banneaux, as well as Ars, where St. John Mary Vianney was a parish priest; Garabandal and Santiago de Compostela. Call Sr. Elenita at 6320223 or text 0916-3452793.

Book launch

The Our Lady of Piat book by Bobby Caballero will be launched at the Waterfront Hotel on Sept. 8 at 4:30 p.m. Guest of honor is Sen. Manny Villar.

A CHILDREN'S choir sings the "Salve Regina" at Montserrat Basilica. The Virgin's altar is above.

Baby, one more time.



So you can get more chances of winning an iPod, or other cool gear. Text in the SMS code found on your Prized Fries Game Card with every purchase of Fries and Coke.

PRIZED FRIES FULL MECHANICS:

I. Instant Win
1. Every purchase of McDonald's Large Fries and Coke (of any size) entitles the customer one (1) game card.
2. Scratch off silver panel. Reveal and claim the corresponding prize.
3. Do not scratch off VOID IF REMOVED panel.
4. The following prizes can be won for the instant-win portion of the game love ko 'to watch, free food purchase like McDonald's Sundae Cone, McSpaghetti and Big Mac.
5. For non-winning game cards, consumers are entitled to avail of discounts on certain food purchases from McDonald's.

CLAIMING OF INSTANT PRIZES:
1. Instant Prizes like the love ko 'to watches and free food purchases can be claimed at McDonald's outlet where the card was received.
2. Surrender the INSTANT-WIN portion of the card to the designated branch manager to claim your prize.
3. Freebies from the winning game card cannot be deducted from current purchase nor be converted to cash.
4. All prizes are subject to prize code verification when claiming prizes. The VOID IF REMOVED panel shall be scratched off by the branch manager for verification.
5. Only winning game cards with authenticated security code will be honored.
6. Winners authorize McDonald's to disclose and publicize their names and other particulars as determined by McDonald's and in any mode or manner as McDonald's deems appropriate if they win a prize.
7. Promo period is from August 15-September 30, 2004.
8. Redemption period is up to 60 days after the promo period or up to November 30, 2004.

II. SMS Portion
1. For a texter to qualify, he/she must:
a. own a mobile phone.
b. be a subscriber of Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Talk N Text whether in postpaid or pre-paid plans.
2. Every purchase of McDonald's Large Fries and Coke (of any size) entitles customer to a game card.
3. The text raffle portion has a corresponding 8-digit alphanumeric code to be sent in the following format.

Syntax: FRIES code/fullname/(birthday) mmddyyyy/address/amount paid

Example: FRIES abcd1234/angela c. de guzman/05071981/ayala heights, diliman Quezon City/100

And send to 367 for Smart and Talk n' Text, or 2344 for Globe and Touch Mobile. This service costs P2.50/entry for Smart, Globe, Talk N' Text and Touch Mobile subscribers.

4. An acknowledgement message will be sent to every successful entry.

Textback 1: Thank you <fullname> for joining in McDo's Prized Fries. The code you sent was <code>. Keep the card & this msg to be presented in case you win.

Textback 2: Promo period is until September 30, 2004. For more details see posters and flyers. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. ___, Series of 2004. P2.50/entry.

5. A participant who sent an incorrect entry will receive a message.

Textback 1: Pls check ur code. The alphanumeric code shud b 8-digits.

Example: FRIES 8-digit code/full name /bday (mmddyyyy) /address/amount paid

Textback 2: Ex. FRIES abcd1234/ angela c. de guzman /05071981/ ayala heights diliman quezon city/100. Promo period is up to September 30, 2004. P2.50/entry. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. _ Series of 2004.

6. A participant may join as much as he/she wants, provided they send only once the unique code found in every card.
7. The McDonald's Prized Fries SMS service is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
8. Participants who sent in an entry but did not receive any text back must inform GMA-NMI (New Media, Inc.) Customer Service at (02) 928 7021 local 557. Upon calling, texters are asked to provide GMA NMI's Customer Service Representative (CSR) with the following information:
1. Texter's mobile number,
2. The date and time the entry was sent,
3. The promo code.
9. The CSR will not have access to the actual entry sent in by the texter. This is just to verify if a text entry was received from the texter.
10. If an entry is received by the system's database, the CSR can then provide the texter with information whether his/her request was received or not.
11. Globe/Touch Mobile and Smart/Talk N' Text Telecoms reserves the right to disqualify or bar a contestant from joining the promo without prior notice, for usage indicative of abuse or fraud.
12. Qualified entries must:
a. have submitted his/her entry within the duration of the promotion
b. have received a confirmation text from GMA-NMI's access numbers for registration
c. be present at GMA-NMI's database within the promotion duration.
13. All participants are presumed to have read and understood, and agree and abide by the service's complete rules and regulations.
14. All employees and relatives of McDonald's Philippines, GMA New Media, Inc., Indio, Brand Loyalty, GMA Network Inc., Leo Burnett Advertising, Globe Telecom, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk n' Text and the Coca-Cola Company and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining the instant & raffle promotions.

DRAWING AND VERIFICATION OF WINNERS AND PRIZE REDEMPTION
1. Winners of the promo will be determined through an electronic raffle draw with the presence of a DTI Representative on September 8 and October 1, 2004.

September 8 Draw
a. 5 winners of iPOD mini
b. 5 winners of Palm PDA
c. 1 winner of Nokia 7610 unit
d. 1 winner of Nokia Engage QD unit
e. 2 winners of Nokia 3220 unit
f. 4 winners of Nokia 3100 unit
g. 3 winners of Digital Heart Rate Adidas watches

October 1 Draw
a. 5 winners of iPOD mini
b. 5 winners of Palm PDA
c. 1 winner of Nokia 7610 unit
d. 1 winner of Nokia Engage QD unit
e. 2 winners of Nokia 3220 unit
f. 4 winners of Nokia 3100 unit
g. 4 winners of Digital Heart Rate Adidas watches

2. Drawing of winners will be held at the GMA New Media, Inc. office located at 2/F Manlius Bldg. GMA Network Complex, EDSA cor. 11th Jamboree St., Diliman, Q.C.
3. Winners will be verified by the "Board of Judges" consisting of a representative from the DTI, McDonald's and GMA New Media, Inc.
4. Cut-off time of entries for the September 8 and October 1 will be 11:59PM of September 7 and September 30, 2004 respectively.
5. Winners will be notified thru a text message from GMA NMI's special access number and by a call from GMA New Media, Inc.'s authorized representative by registered mail and shall be announced in a newspaper of general circulation.
6. Winners must present the following when claiming their prize:
a. Any valid ID with picture and address.
b. The SIM card used for participation.
c. Winners MUST present the card with the alphanumeric code to claim the prize. Winners will be disqualified if card with the winning code is not presented.

III. Prizes
1. Prizes for the text raffles are:
a. 10 winners of iPOD mini
b. 10 winners of Palm PDA
c. 2 winner of Nokia 7610 unit
d. 2 winner of Nokia Engage QD unit
e. 4 winners of Nokia 3220 unit
f. 8 winners of Nokia 3100 unit
g. 7 winners of Digital Heart Rate Adidas watches
2. All text raffle winners can claim their prizes at McDonald's Head Office 17th floor Citibank Centre Bldg.
3. A participant (unique SIM card number) can win more than once within the duration of the promo.
4. All prizes are non-convertible to cash.
5. The 20% tax for the prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by McDonald's Philippines.
6. Prizes that are not claimed after 60 days after the receipt of their notification will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.

Promo period is August 15 to September 30, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1417, Series of 2004.

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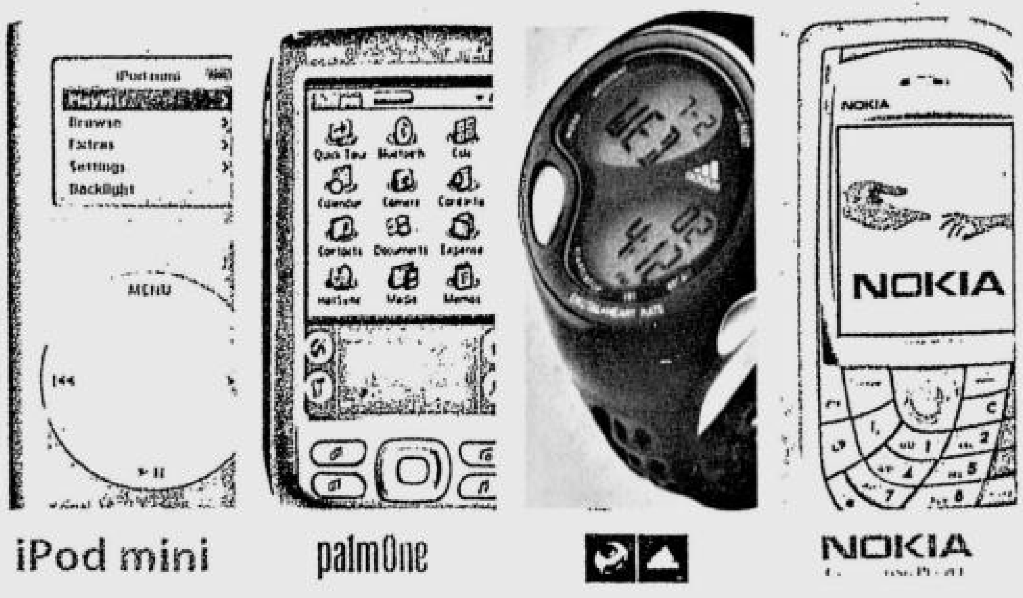
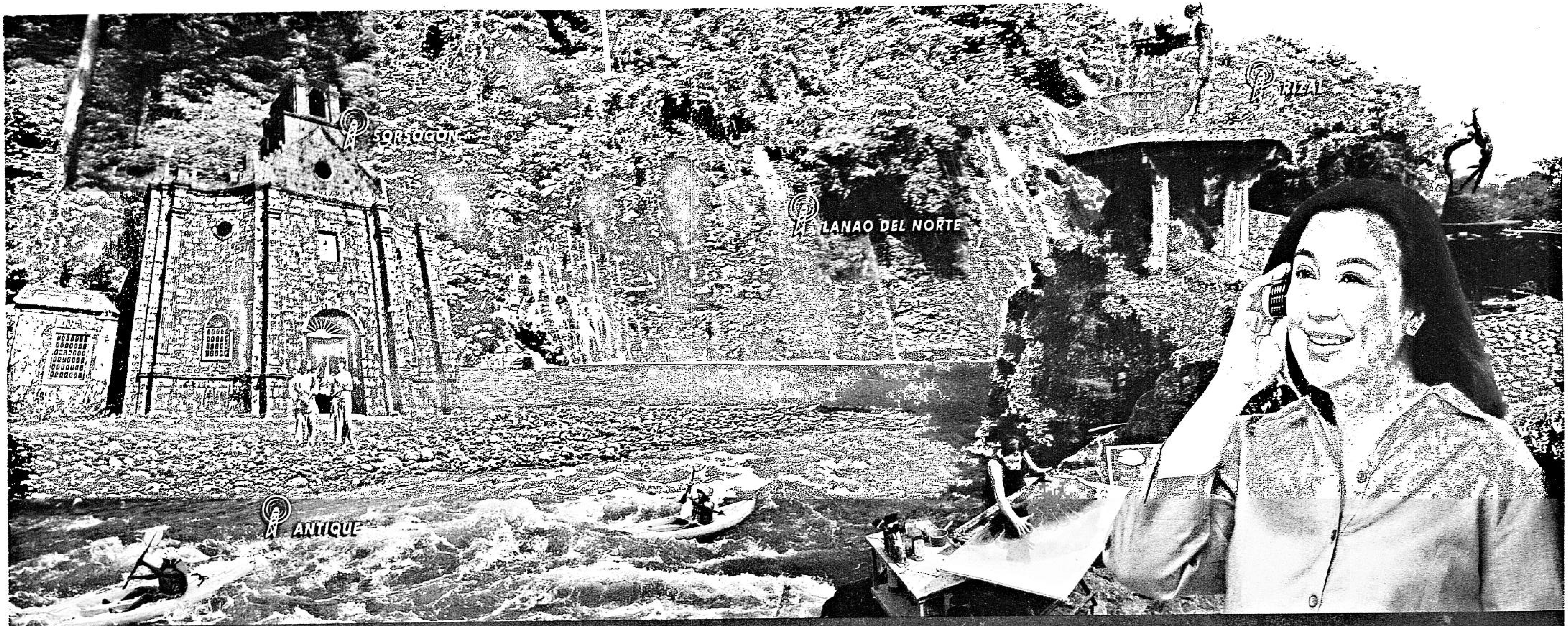


Prized Fries
Coca-Cola



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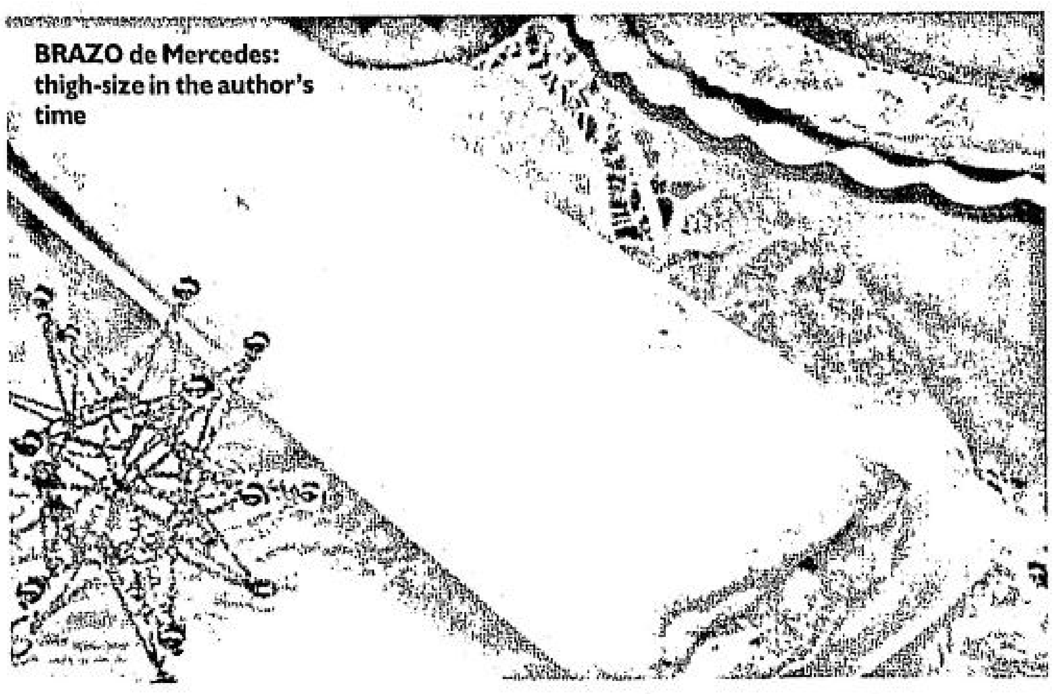

BRAZO de Mercedes: thigh-size in the author's time

Foodies

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

MY mother loved giving parties. An imaginative cook, she liked serving fancy stuff—an incomparable *lengua*, a capon stuffed with *sotanghon* and chestnuts, a big fish bathed in mayonnaise and garnished with separate bands of minced carrots, hard-boiled eggs and sugar beets (a recipe of the '50s).

Sometimes there was wintermelon soup which was a rich chicken broth in a boiled *kundol*, which stood on end in a magnificent punch bowl.

At the head of table, my mother, dressed in a flowing hostess gown, would ladle the soup from its wintermelon container into each guest's cup—a truly dramatic performance.

The dessert would likely be English trifle made this way: Scoop all the pulp out of several Sunkist oranges, leaving skin and rind and a coin-size hole on top. Pour in successively, green gelatin (then refrigerate), white gelatin (then refrigerate), red gelatin (then refrigerate). When ready to

FOODIES/D2

'Our house was serving certain dishes long before they became the vogue'

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Earthquake rocks a neighborhood!

Cause of unusual tremors investigated

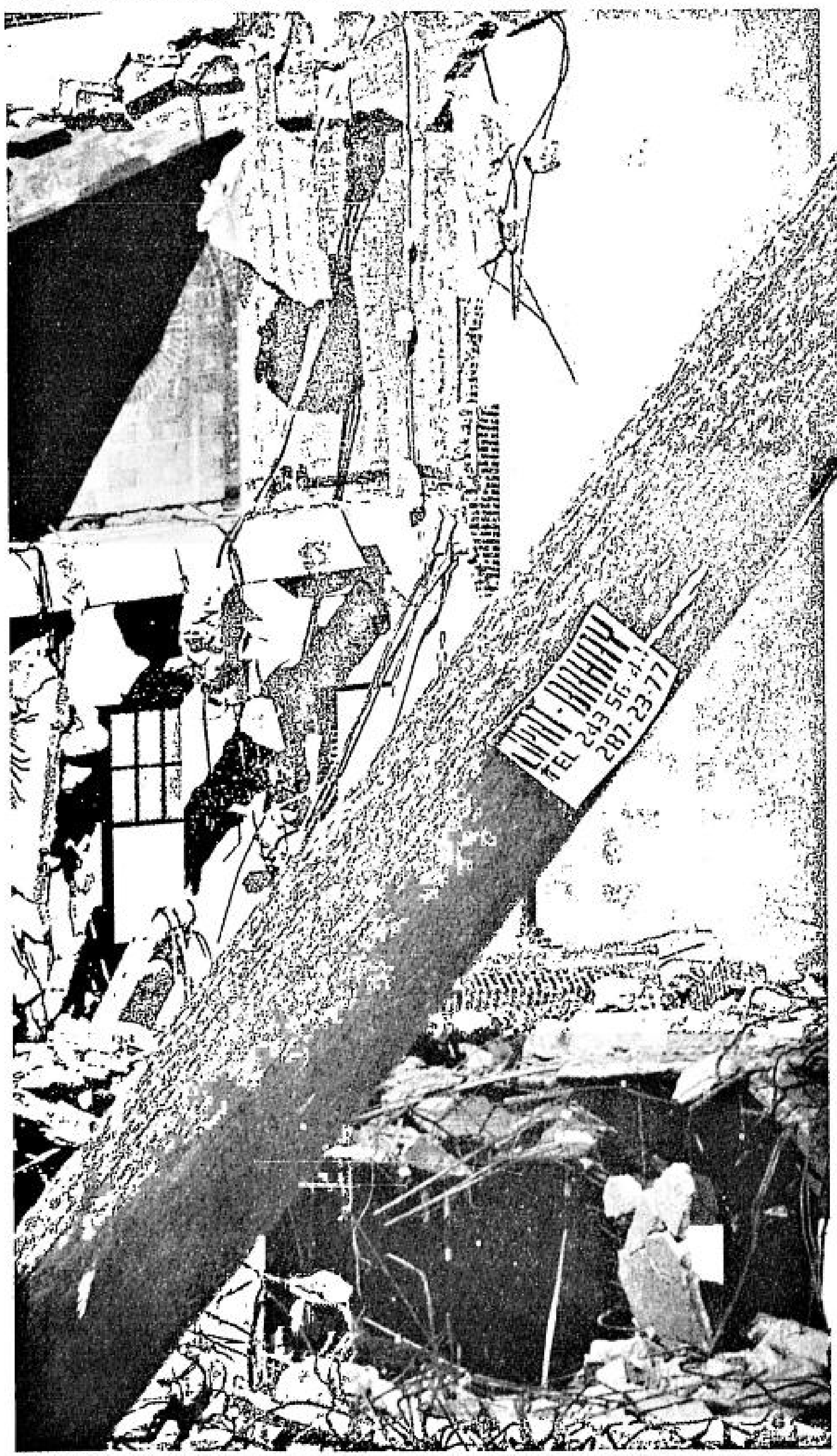
AN UNUSUAL phenomenon occurred yesterday when an earthquake hit only an isolated area of a neighborhood in Manila.

According to eyewitnesses, the tremors were felt only in one building and nearby structures. Most of the damage occurred in the Century Condominium building and an electrical post nearby.

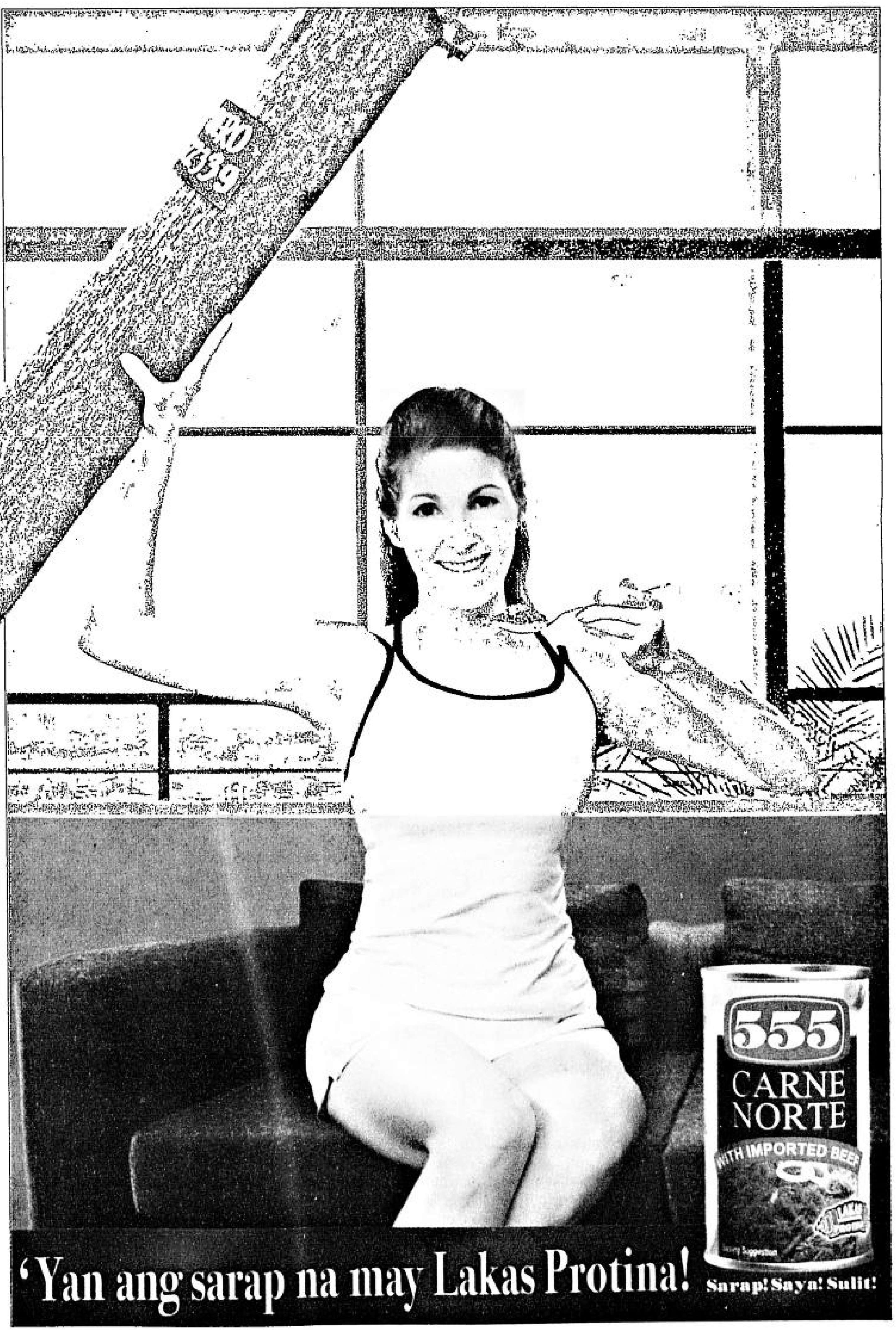
Jackie Lou Blanco, actress and fitness expert who lives in the Century building was shocked to see the damage in the different floors.

"I was home, but I didn't feel the earthquake. Maybe I was too busy eating 555 Carne Norte! I was enjoying it so much because it was so delicious. Plus I was listening to great music the whole time, tapping my feet..."

Investigations have shown that the source of the earthquake was highly extraordinary. It seemed to have emanated from the third floor of the building, particularly in the unit where Ms. Blanco lives. Experts on the scene say that a strong force coming from that area caused the tremors and the subsequent damage. Upon further questioning, Ms. Blanco maintained that she was not aware of the earthquake during its occurrence, that indeed she was just eating 555 Carne Norte and tapping her feet to music at that time.



AFTERSHOCKS. The damage on the residential street hit by the mysterious earthquake.



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If you're a Petron-BPI MasterCard holder, you're the man! Get 50% off on basic carwash from June 14 - September 14, 2004 by simply presenting your Petron-BPI MasterCard to any Clean Car attendant in any of the participating parking lots in Ayala Center- Makati City, Rockwell, Dela Rosa 1-2, Tower 1, 6750 Bldg., Bonifacio Global City, Gabriela Silang, Robinson's, Greenhills, Shopwise-Libis and Ali Mall. If you want to get the full service motorist card, call the BPI Hotline at 89-100 and apply now. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2580 Series of 2004

The Full Service Motorist Card

Manila Water
KABUHAYAN
PARA SA
BARANGAY

BUSINESS is booming in Makaturing.

HAPPINESS over *tinapa*

MICRO-FINANCING project launched by BPI vice president Veronica Tapia Merk (second from left), Mandaluyong City Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz (second from right), MWC president Antonio Aquino (extreme right), barangay captain Danilo Ocampo (center), neighborhood association president Delia Millona (extreme left)

Small steps to a better life

Manila Water helps a depressed area in Mandaluyong uplift its condition and sustain its water service

NOTHING fancy, just your basic six food groups

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Rudy Esperas

THIS used to be a water-lily pond," says Delia Millona, showing her neighborhood at 81 Makaturing in Mandaluyong City. "When we settled here in 1990, the houses were on stilts. The water at its deepest was 20 ft."

Reclaimed from the bog, the place has become one of Metro Manila's "inner cities," accessible from the main road only by foot. The 3,600-sq. m. area is congested with some 1,200 residents, or 216 households.

Millona, president of the Makaturing Neighborhood Association for three years now, says the place is generally peaceful, though it has its share of disturbances, as any other depressed area.

Livelihood, of course, is a major factor that shapes the characteristics of a social milieu. The Manila Water Company recognizes this when it implements sustainable-development programs through its Kabuhayan Para sa Barangay.

The livelihood programs, aimed to "contribute to the improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor," include: waste recycling; rag-making; *sari-sari* store; skills-based programs (soap-making, candle-making, beads and accessories, shoe repair, haircut, manicure and pedicure); mobile stores (fish or squid balls, innards, *kikiam*, *camote*- or banana-cue); *talipapa* for basic food commodities (fish, meat, vegetables, fruits).

The MWC rationale: "We believe the continued sustainability of our business is dependent on the communities we serve and the environment that supports our resources."

Put bluntly, MWC is giving these poor neighborhoods some livelihood so the residents can pay their water bills. It's a kind of symbiosis, a win-win situation.

Pilot area

"The first step is to give the community water, then a communal septic tank—and they have to sustain that through livelihood," says Jeric Sevilla Jr., manager for MWC right-of-way and sustainable-development programs.

On June 24, a micro-financing project was launched, with Makaturing as the pilot area. Eight families were initially chosen.

"We choose those who know their business, or who have the skills," says Sevilla. "We have earmarked open spaces for their businesses."

One such common space is the approximately 10 m x 30 m cemented area that serves as basketball court and public square for the residents. Too rectangular for a square, and too uneven for a rectangle, the place is bound on all sides by shanties, makeshift structures, unfinished concrete houses.

Here, on the afternoon of the project's launch, a fiesta atmosphere prevailed. A sound system blared as people came and went, whirled, lingered, happiness on their faces.

Here were spread the local entrepreneurs' ware: *bilaos* of *pancit* and *kakanin*; heaps of vegetables; plastic jars of iced drinks; dried fish, *kikiam*, fish balls, banana-cue; soap bars made by a resident; *sari-sari* stores on carts. Business was obviously booming as in a few hours the goods were gone.

The community of Makaturing has been adopted by the Ayala Group of Companies, whose umbrella program Kalahi ng Ayala conceived the livelihood project.

Top priority

The seed money of P200,000 is coming from the Bank of the Philippine Islands, with MWC as the project's implementing arm. An entrepreneur can avail of a maximum loan of P5,000.

"It is payable in six months, with a one-percent interest rate per month," says Sevilla. "The interest goes to administrative expenses and the revolving funds."

Millona says they conduct direct interviews and check on the loan beneficiary's family history and background, particularly his or her capacity to pay.

"We want active payments," she says. "We want to avoid delay. Business is business. *Walang kumare o kumpare pagdating sa* business. *Ayaw naming mapahiya ang* association."

The loan is purely for operations or business capital, excluding purchase of equipment, construction, labor and utilities.

"*Yung* mobile stores *muna*," says Millona. "If one is a good payer, then the initial loan of P5,000 could be increased."

Only bonafide residents of Makaturing are eligible for the enterprise, with women aged 18 years and above as priority.

"Our priority is those with established businesses—we just augment," says Raymund Vagilidad, MWC territory business manager for San Juan-Mandaluyong.

Vagilidad is the MWC point person in the area, so the burden of facilitating the project is on him.

"The most important is community participation," says Sevilla. "We are only overseers."

Sighted for the next project is Block 37, Welfareville, Mandaluyong City. This is the kind of corporate social responsibility that breeds solid citizens in unlikely places.

Foodies

From page D1

serve, the oranges are quartered and each guest gets a slice of this red, white and green art.

Filler dishes would be *pinsec frito* with very little meat but with a flaring wrapper, or some unusual *pancit*, or the chicken salad she learned how to make from her sister-in-law. That kind of chicken salad I never saw in other people's houses.

It consisted of boiled, finely shredded chicken breast mixed with mashed potatoes and minced onions. The dressing was olive oil, not mayonnaise, and had not a touch of sweetness. The salad was molded in an inverted bowl, becoming an attractive yellow dome after a coating of raw egg yolk.

If it had rained during the week, my mother was sure to send Bibiana, our cook, off to Cuenca for *kabuting kidlat*, huge, floppy mushrooms that sprouted with the thunder and lightning. They made a delicious, gelatinous broth and was the alternative to the wintermelon soup.

Trailblazing kitchen

Our house was serving certain dishes way before they became the vogue. In the late '50s it was fondue (mostly cubes of tenderloin and sausage) complete with its paraphernalia of long forks, mini-casseroles and alcohol burners.

And before all that hullabaloo over Asian cuisine our cook was already doing *char kwei tiaw* and white chicken (which mother learned from dad's World Health Organization stint in Singapore) and also *kimchi*, by the basinful (taught by a Korean opera singer house guest). Visitors also cooked a communal *jon-lo* (a kind of *shabu-shabu*) around an aluminum receptacle with coals underneath. Into the soup stock each guest dropped his chosen morsel—sliced flat shrimps, white fish, chicken breast, livers or crinkly *pechay*—and retrieved it afterward. Sauce was soy with minced ginger.

Let them eat cake

Mama always had several cakes for dessert, that being her forte (she accepted orders). The most popular ones were a yummy torte with a thick layer of *pili* nuts on top, and an unbelievably fat roll of Brazo de Mercedes (more like thigh size!) Then there was the Mary Ann cake from some American cookbook. Baked in a special pan, Mary Ann had a recessed middle and a high cake rim with a mélange of canned peaches, pears and maraschino cherries in cream nestling in it.

Whenever any of us had to go to a party, cake was the regulation present. Of course, mother had earlier made my wedding cake, too—a four-tiered wonder. Its hollow middle pillar that my father had fashioned out of tin had our cut-out initials. The pillar was covered with icing and a light glowed from within. Underneath it was a fruit-and-nut-laden fruit cake. We canned some and 10 years later, when we opened the tin, the cake was still edible!

My mother eagerly fed my father's physiology department group, his recorder-playing group, the tennis group, her society friends, her normal friends, our relatives and in her later years, her ballroom dancing gang. Everyone was delighted to be invited to my mama's latest culinary surprise.

All her concentration though was on feeding the visitors, not in grouping them properly. So it wasn't unusual for a justice to be sitting next to a brainless jewelry agent, or my agnostic intellectual cousin Tente beside excitable Sister Brenda of the Good Shepherd order. But I guess their tastebuds and their stomachs connected them all.

Native food gourmets

Out of contrariness, I guess, or lack of talent, I never learned how to cook any of those dishes or pastries. When I got married, alas, I was on my own party-wise. Fortunately, I had married into a family of gourmets—but of a different sort. They liked native food, specifically that of Cavite City, a far cry from the continental tastes of my past life. The Fernandos never partied but they were very particular about even their everyday dishes which then were calf brain soup, *croquetas*, *almondigas*, *adobo* in liver sauce and *kanduli sa dilaw*.

Sunday lunch had delicious *pochero* cooked with blood sausage or its other version, *pote* Gallego, *apahap* wrapped in *alagaw* leaves, *bacalao a la* Vizcaina on Good Friday and on Christmas, great tamales (although I missed the fine china and embroidered tablecloths of my parental home).

Such a cholesterol-laden bloodline on both sides, even as it skipped me, was bound to produce some good cooks. And it did—three sons crazy about cooking!

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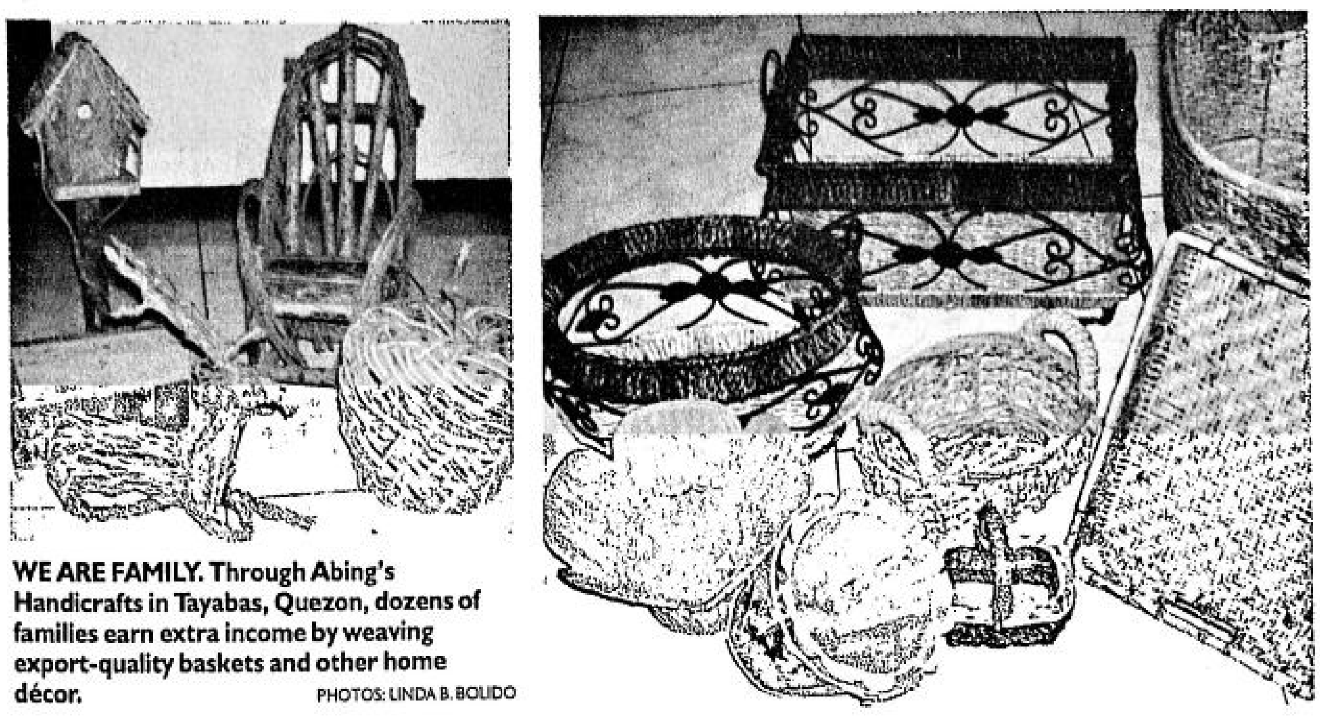


WE ARE FAMILY. Through Abing's Handicrafts in Tayabas, Quezon, dozens of families earn extra income by weaving export-quality baskets and other home décor. PHOTOS: LINDA B. BOLIDO

A village for a basket

By Allison W. Lopez

NETWORKING is working wonders in the province of Quezon.

Through Abing's Handicrafts in Tayabas, *tatay, nanay,* and even *ate* and *kuya* can weave export-quality baskets in the comfort of their own homes.

"It's actually what we call subcontracting," says Ping Cabuyao, who now heads the company his mother Abing started.

One of the pioneering handicraft manufacturers in town, Abing's began in 1972 as a small business engaged in making *buri* hats and placemats. When his mother, now 71, retired in 1988, Cabuyao left his job in MWSS to save the company from extinction. Today, Abing's supplies native home décor to buyers in Manila, which then sell the items for export.

In the garage, pretty baskets made of rattan and wrought iron are ready for delivery. At the warehouse, piles of abaca, *buri*, *pandan*, bamboo and assorted fibers can be seen. Abing's supplies these materials to the families of *maglalala* (weavers). They, in turn, supply the labor.

The number of workers involved depends upon the volume and the production time given by the buyers. Sometimes even a whole barangay is engaged. And though it may actually seem troublesome to call upon dozens of workers to finish a job, Cabuyao says it's hardly the case.

"*May* contact person *ako sa isang barangay, tapos siya na ang bahala kung ilan ang kakailanganin niyang magtatrabaho. Mas nakakatipid pa nga ang ganitong sistema, at mabilis pa*," he explains.

Sourcing problems

Cabuyao says problems actually stem from sourcing the materials and not from the house-to-house system. "*Pero maliliit na kahoy lang naman ang kailangan namin kaya hindi rin kami masyadong nahihirapan maghanap ng materyales*," he says.

As far as he knows, the subcontracting system is still employed in most parts of the province. It was the way things were when he was still in high school and helping out his mom, and he has no plans to change the process since it is especially beneficial to the laborers, who are mostly farmers. Tayabas is mainly agricultural, after all, with rice and copra as its main crops.

Weaving, says Cabuyao, helps supplement the farmers' income. They squeeze in time during or after the planting season to do weaving at home. Even the wives and children are learning the craft. Abing's gives the design, materials and due date. The workers get paid per finished piece.

These projects, however, are seasonal, so it's but natural that the weavers look for work from other manufacturers. Cabuyao doesn't take this personally. He even recommends them to other companies when there's no job to accomplish.

"*Hindi kalaban ang tingin ko sa mga kapwa* manufacturer, *kung hindi kasama sa buhay*," he says. "*Sino-sino pa ang magtutulungan kung hindi ang kapwa magha*-handicraft?"

Abing's Handicrafts is located at 46 D. Nadres St., Sumilang Subdivision, Brgy. Mateuna, Tayabas, Quezon. Call (042) 7932343 or (042) 7933235.

Bishops, clergy off to Eucharistic Congress in Mexico

ARCHBISHOP Carmelo D.F. Morelos, archbishop of Zamboanga and chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Permanent Committee for International Eucharistic Congress, will lead the official Philippine delegation to the 48th International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico City, on Oct. 10-18.

His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and His Excellency Archbishop Morelos will address the Congress. This year's Congress theme, as approved by the Holy Father, is "The Eucharist, Light and Life of the New Millennium."

The official delegation headed by Archbishop Morelos, together with the members of the Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses and those who wish to join the official delegation, will depart for Guadalajara on Oct. 8.

After the Congress, the delegates will proceed to Mexico City to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Philippines, before returning to the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY (PACCD)
"Global Dermatology 2004"

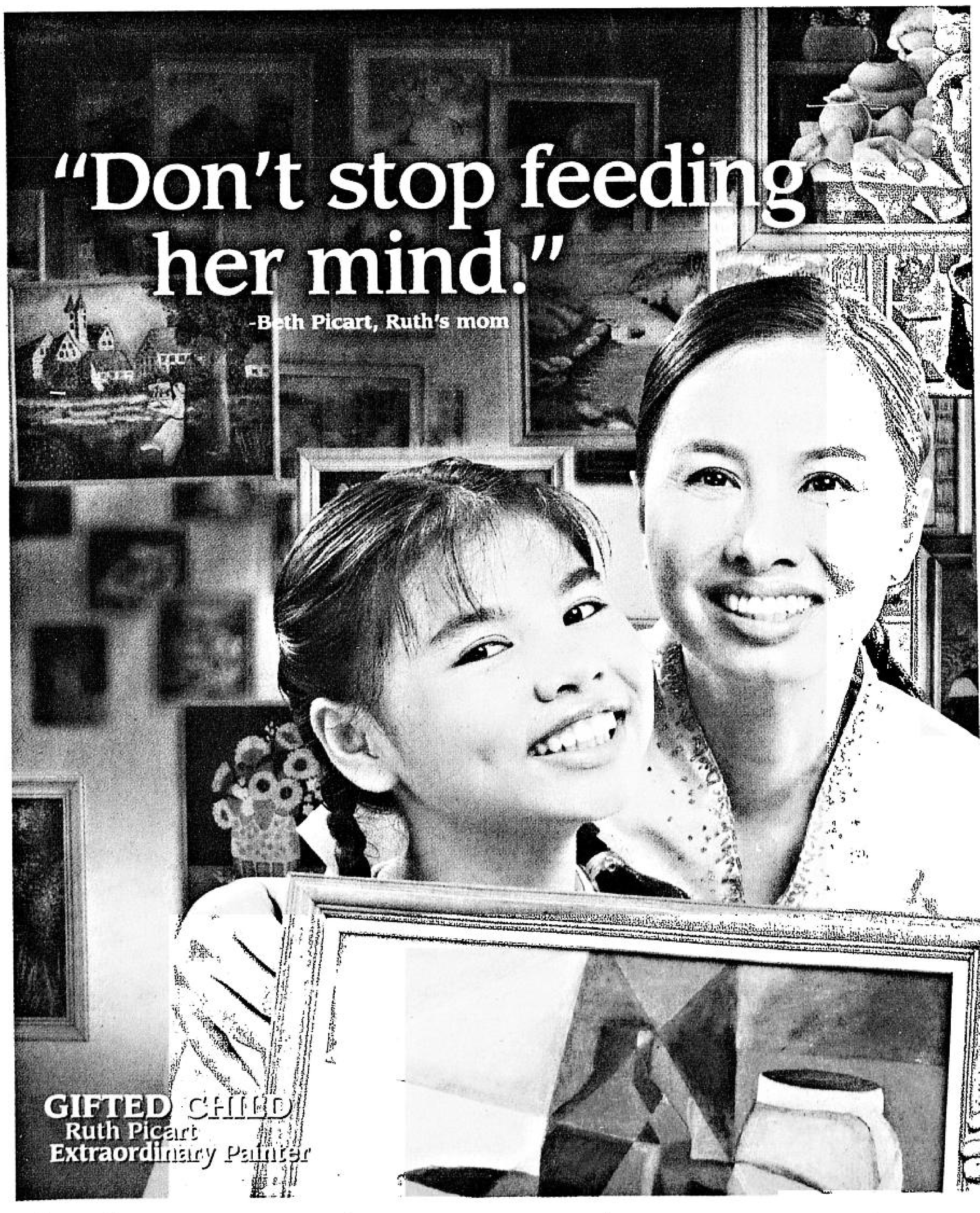
The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD), an organization of dermatologists will hold its annual convention on October 1, 2, and 3, 2004 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The theme of the convention is "Global Dermatology 2004."

Foreign and local speakers were invited to present and discuss the latest in clinical and cosmetic dermatology. Prominent dermatologists and plastic surgeons will participate to enlighten professionals of recent developments and techniques in the practice.

PACCD is a strong, united group of dedicated doctors affiliated with the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), with the mission of broadening their knowledge and skills in dermatology. It aims to promote ethical and moral standards in the practice of the profession and foster camaraderie among its fellow dermatologists.

PACCD is open for application of new members. All professionals, doctors, and other specialists are invited to register early. For further inquiries call our Telefax: (02) 714-4284, and look for Carina.

ADVT.



Wyeth
Nutrition

Twelve-year old Ruth has had 14 art exhibits. Her mind is a well of creative ideas that never fails to produce impressive art. Ruth's mother, Beth, recalls the request of famous local artist, Mr. Fernando Sena, to collect her daughter's works for Ruth's first solo art exhibit. "Nagulat ako! She was only 11 then!"

Beth shares the secret to her daughter's amazing achievements. "Right exposure and the family's support are vital. Guide her in exploring her talent." As soon as she noticed her child's inclination toward the visual arts, Beth enrolled Ruth in painting classes, provided her with materials, and remained a constant source of encouragement and praise. "Always nourish her mind", she stresses. "Provide her with the best nutrition. At ituluy-tuloy mo lang ang pagsuporta."

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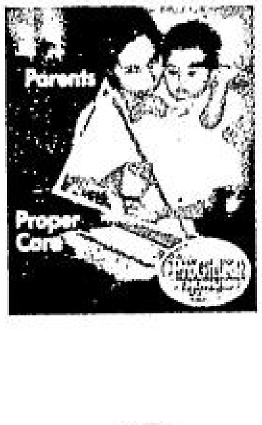

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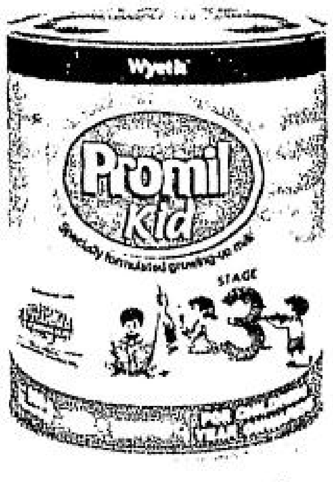
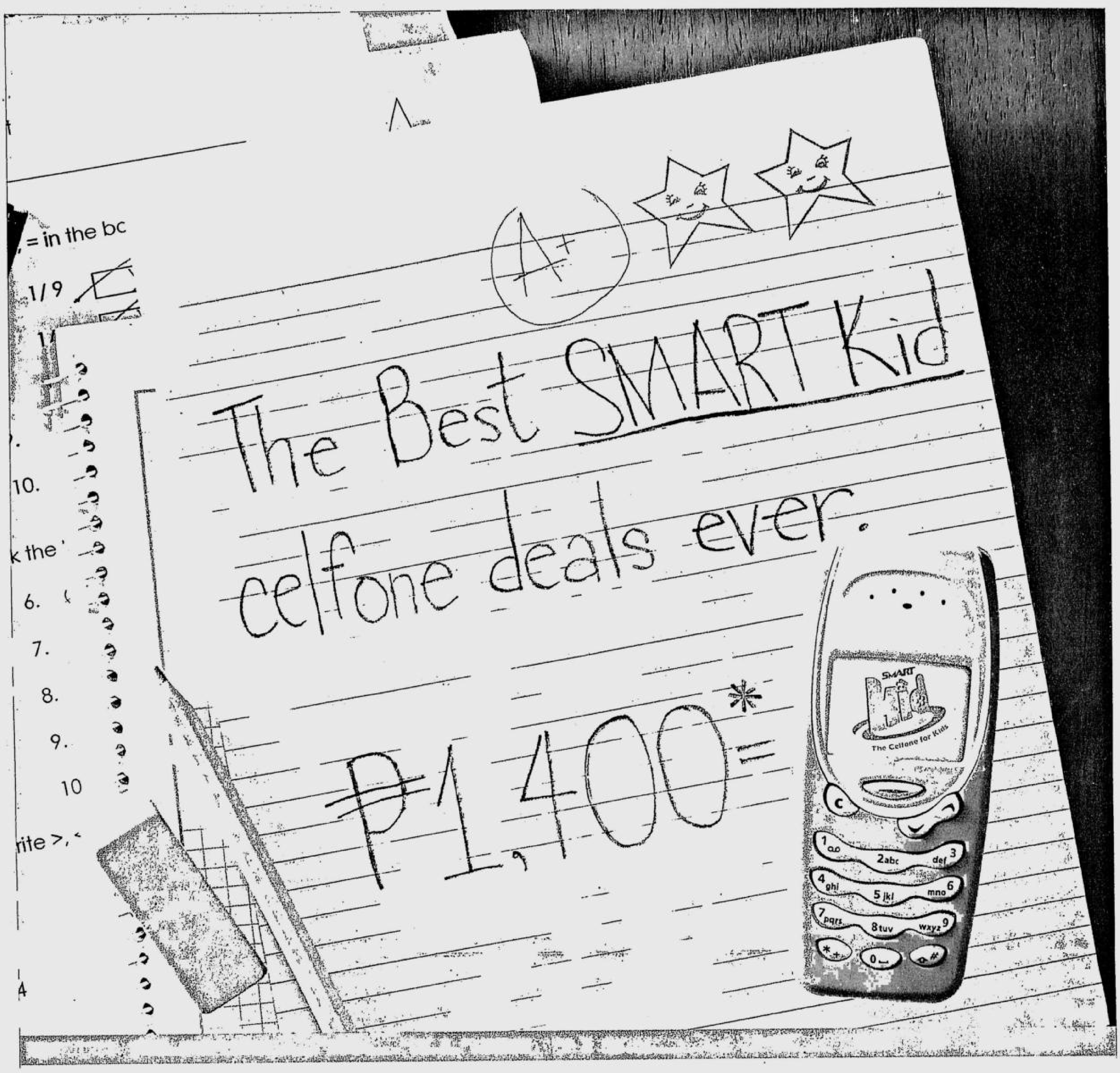


From 1 year onwards.



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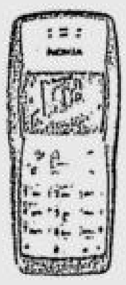
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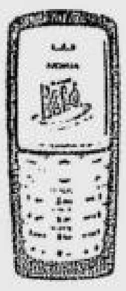
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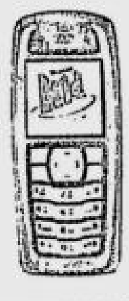
NOKIA 3100 (MMS)
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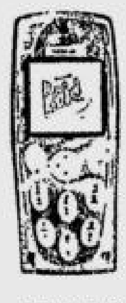
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Patis does Britney and Christina

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Rudy Esperas

The designer infuses her Filipiniana fashion with something hip and sexy

AMERICAN pop rivals Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears have gained a new follower in the person of fashion designer Patis Tesoro.

But before you raise your eyebrows, the country's acknowledged prime mover of Filipiniana fashion has a good reason to idolize the pop princesses.

And this is evident in Tesoro's latest 30-piece collection, which consisted mostly of low-slung skirts that were either layered or paneled, and cropped corsets worn under deconstructed kimonas and cotton chemises.

Despite obvious attempts to go hip, Tesoro still put a semblance of tradition in her pieces by embellishing them with her trademark intricate and floral beadwork and embroidery.

To underscore the unfinished look, she made use of meandering ruffles and a virtual tapestry of fabrics on certain pieces.

Tesoro also did several stylized ternos without such traditional elements as the *panuelo*. Her hand-painted barongs included a number of Asian influences such as mandarin collars and *malong* fashioned from Indian *sari*.

The designer's MTV-inspired wedding finery was featured in a recent fashion show, which kicked off New World Renaissance Hotel's two-day bridal fair, "A Renaissance Wedding."

Aside from professional models, the show featured the likes of Theo Arnold, Elizabeth Victoria, Linda Cruz, April Pilar, Princess Galang and New World Renaissance GM Stephan Stoss and his wife Katriona.

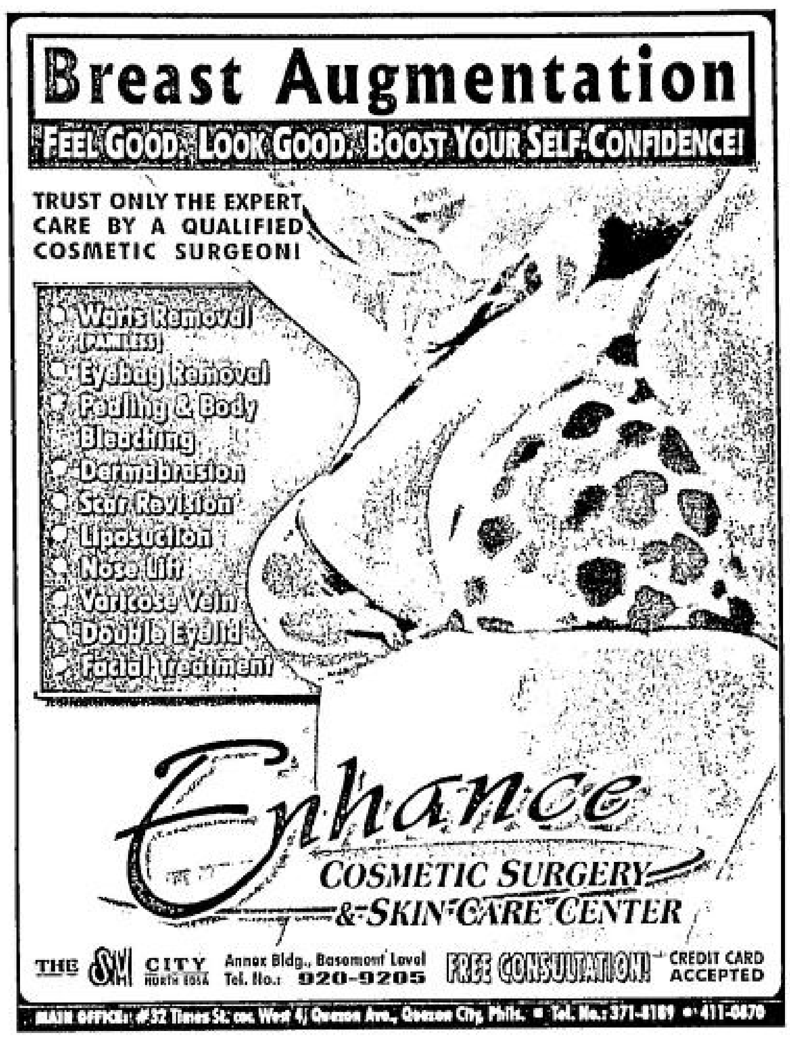
"I wanted to get into the minds of the young," says Tesoro, "so I've been watching a lot of videos of Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera lately."

Globalization

As far as fashion is concerned, Tesoro adds, globalization's influences aren't bad if employed judiciously.

Designers need not be afraid of losing their identities as long as they have a good grasp of

PATIS/ E2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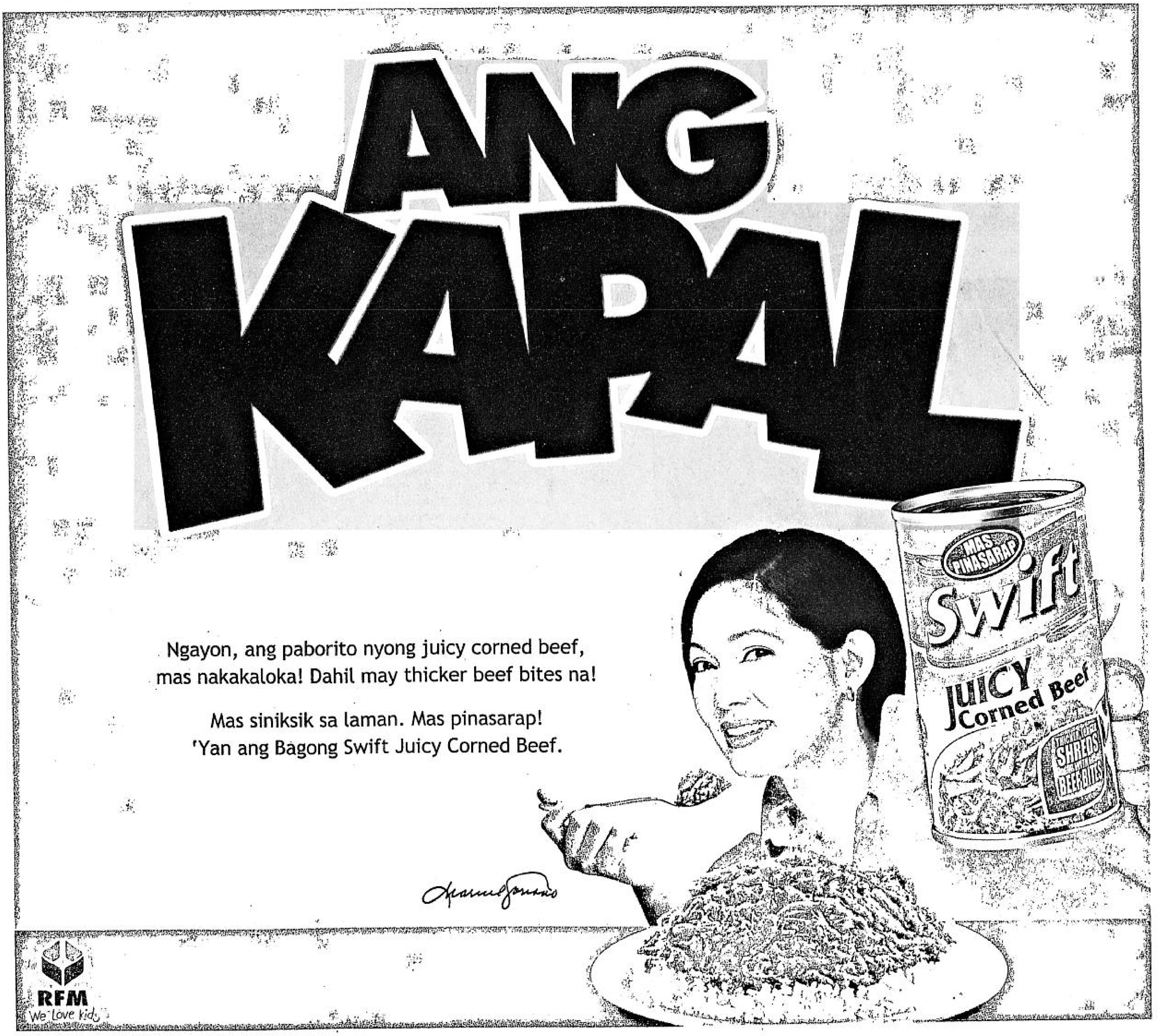
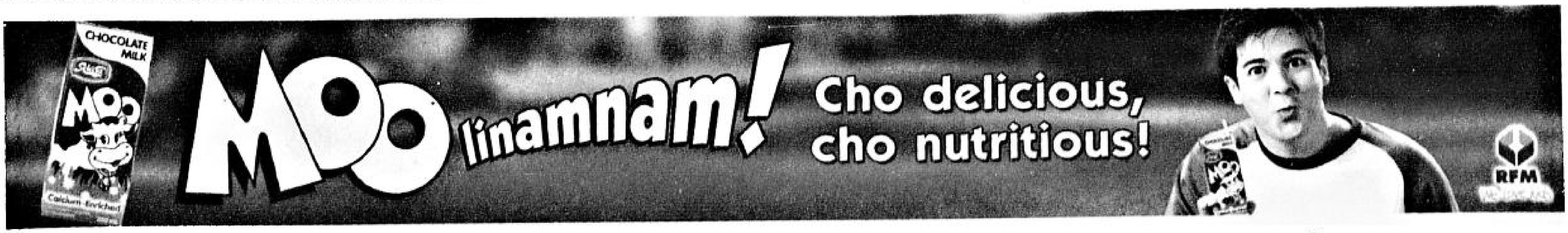
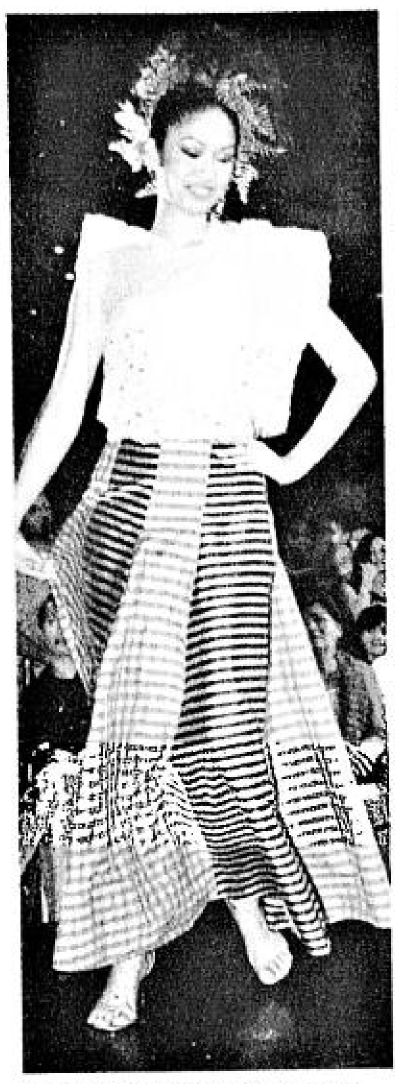
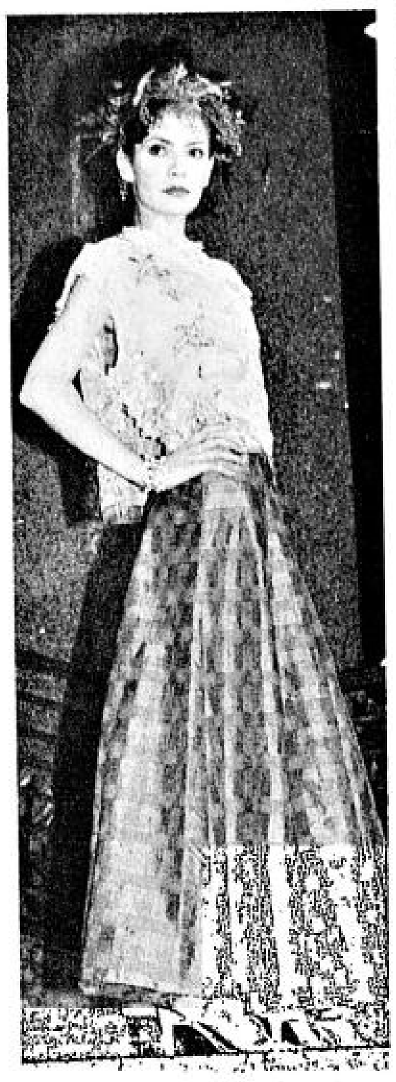

ANG KAPAL

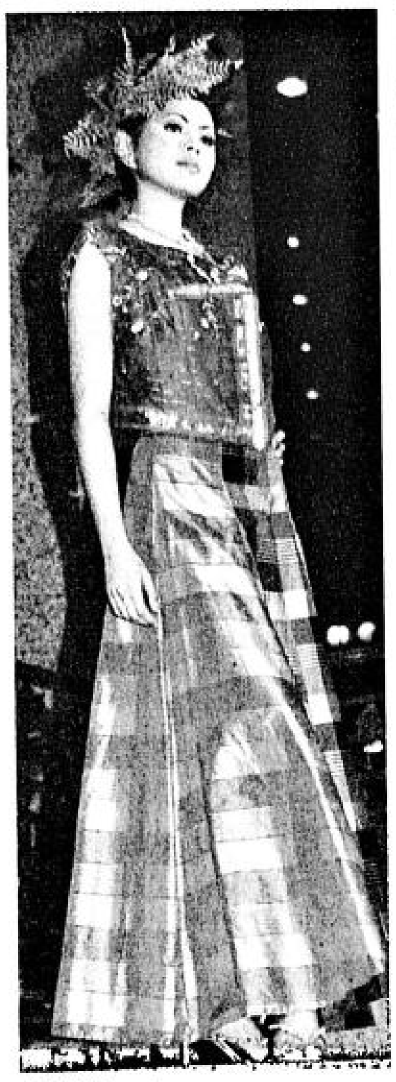
Ngayon, ang paborito nyong juicy corned beef,
mas nakakaloka! Dahil may thicker beef bites na!

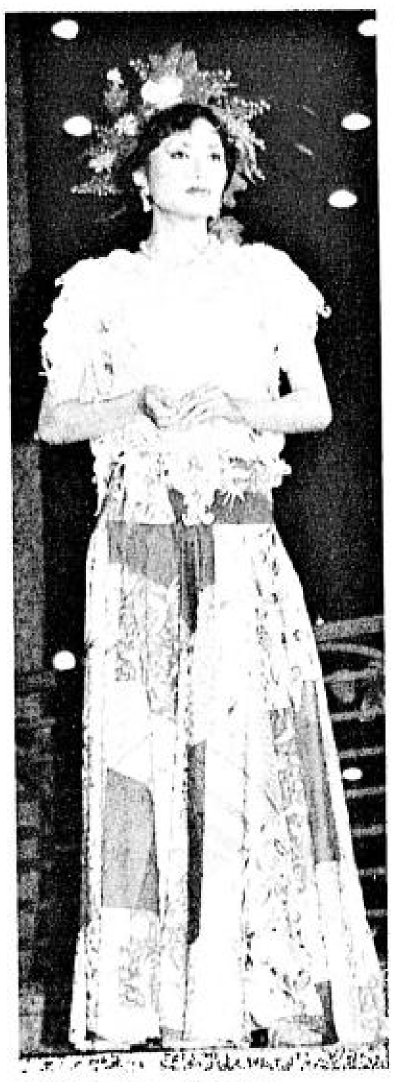
Mas siniksik sa laman. Mas pinasarap!
'Yan ang Bagong Swift Juicy Corned Beef.

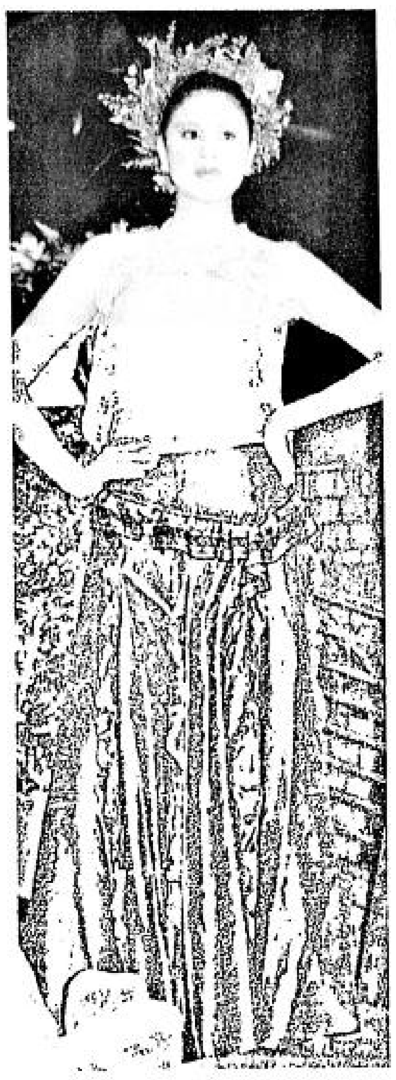

MOO linamnam! Cho delicious, cho nutritious!

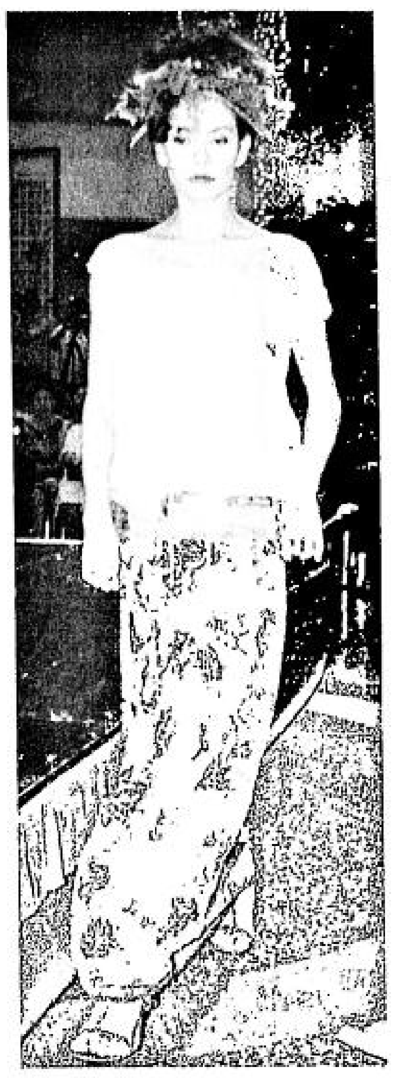

WIDE-PANELED skirt for that extra sway


SHINY plaid skirt

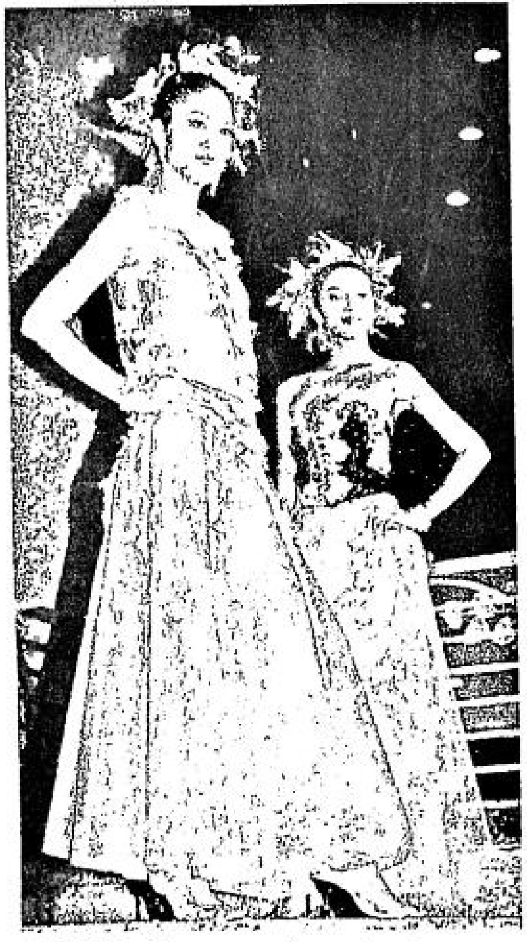

SHEEN on sheen

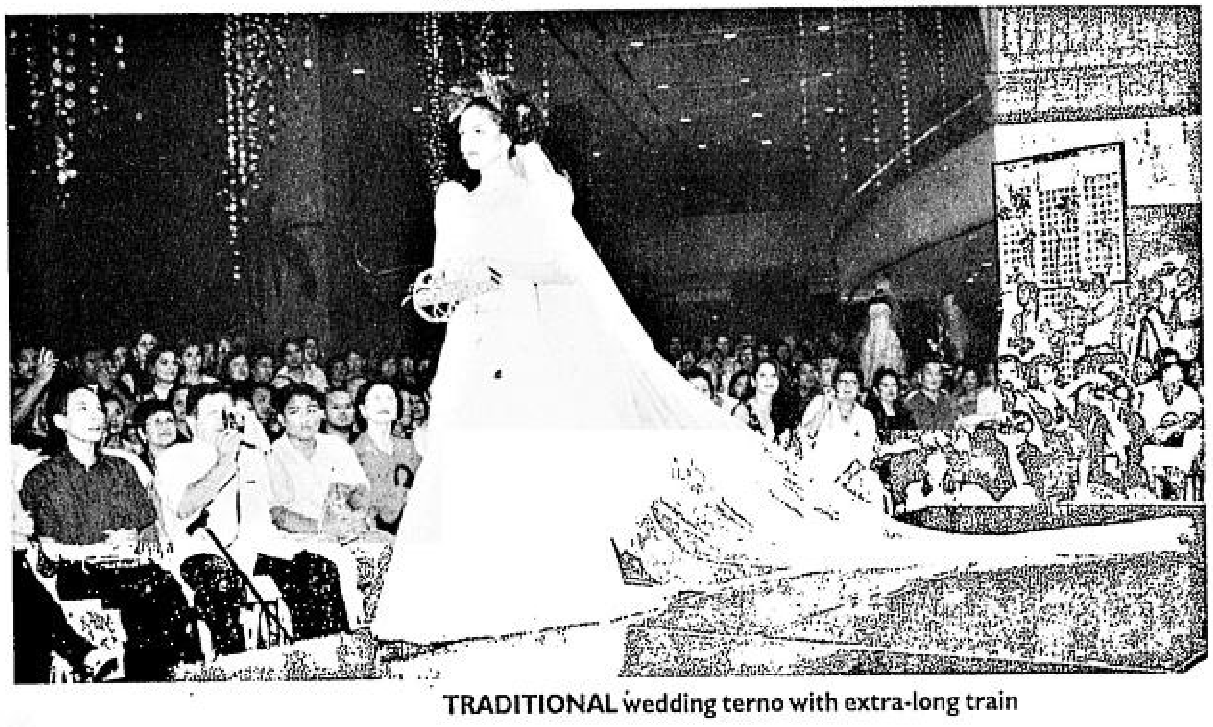

SKIRT with multi prints


CROPPED kimona and skirt with ruffles


LOWLY chemise and beaded floral skirt

Patis does Britney and Christina


RUFFLED skirt, cropped corset and see-through top


TRADITIONAL wedding terno with extra-long train

NEW World Renaissance Hotel GM Stephan Stoss and wife Katriona

From page E1

structure and proportion. As an exponent of indigenous fabrics, she has no problems using imported materials as well.

Her recent collection, for instance, made use of locally sourced and embroidered *piña*, which she incorporated with Thai and Indian silk. She insists, however, on giving local weavers a fighting chance by appealing to colleagues to think of ways of fusing locally produced fabrics in their designs.

"Designers have the power to influence and educate their clients," she says. "We have to believe in ourselves by using local materials, no matter how limited or substandard some of them may be. Only by seeking out and supporting these producers can we ensure the survival and growth of our own textile industry."

Such conviction has earned for Tesoro a niche in Philippine fashion, which up to now remains largely oriented to the West.

Long before Manila's fashionistas rediscovered the terno, she had already been delving on Filipino-inspired formal wear.

"Thanks to the efforts of such people as Bea Zobel, the terno has moved back into the mainstream," she says. "I'm not at all threatened if everybody starts making ternos. In fact, I love it. I hope it lasts forever."

So when the New World Renaissance decided to go Filipiniana this year, its executives thought of no other designer to feature but Tesoro.

Surprisingly, however, there weren't too many eager would-be brides in the audience that night. Most of Tesoro's guests were mature women of the "*ninang*" (wedding sponsor) mold.

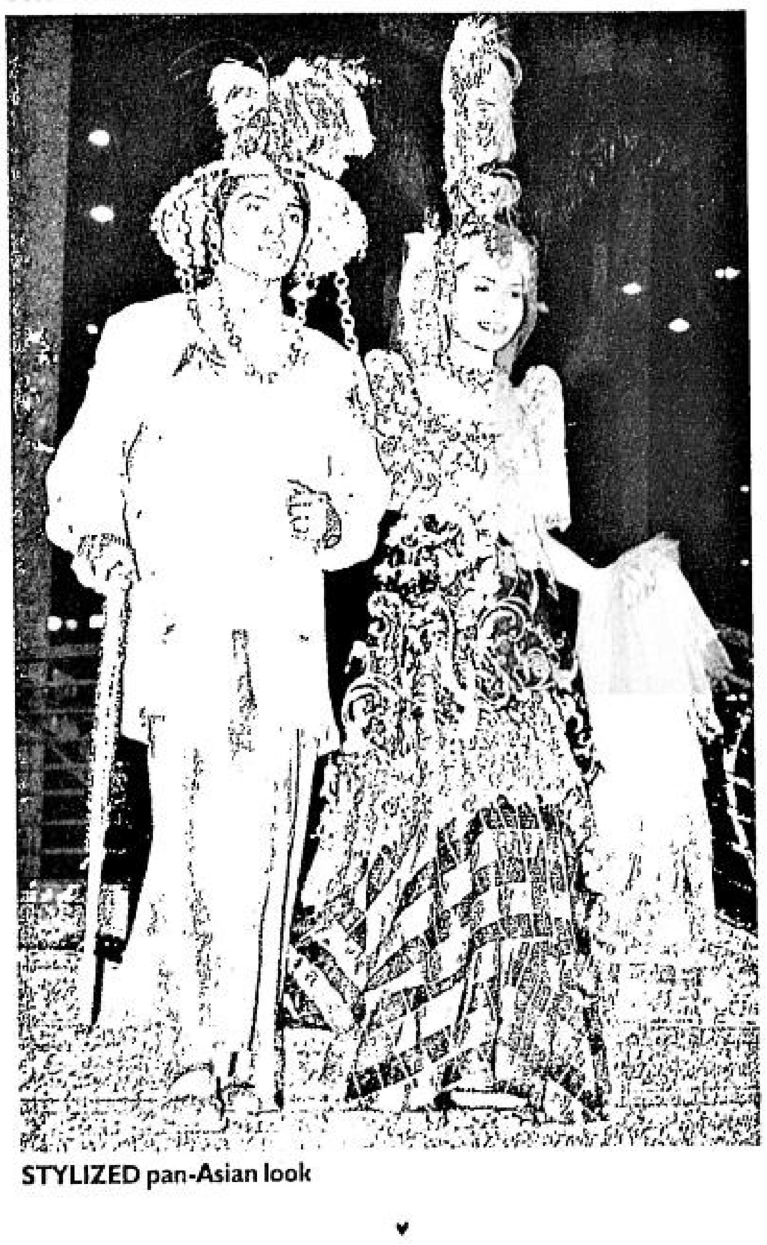
"I could hear some of the older women saying, referring to my collection, 'I wish I could wear one,'" she says with amusement. "That's good enough for me."

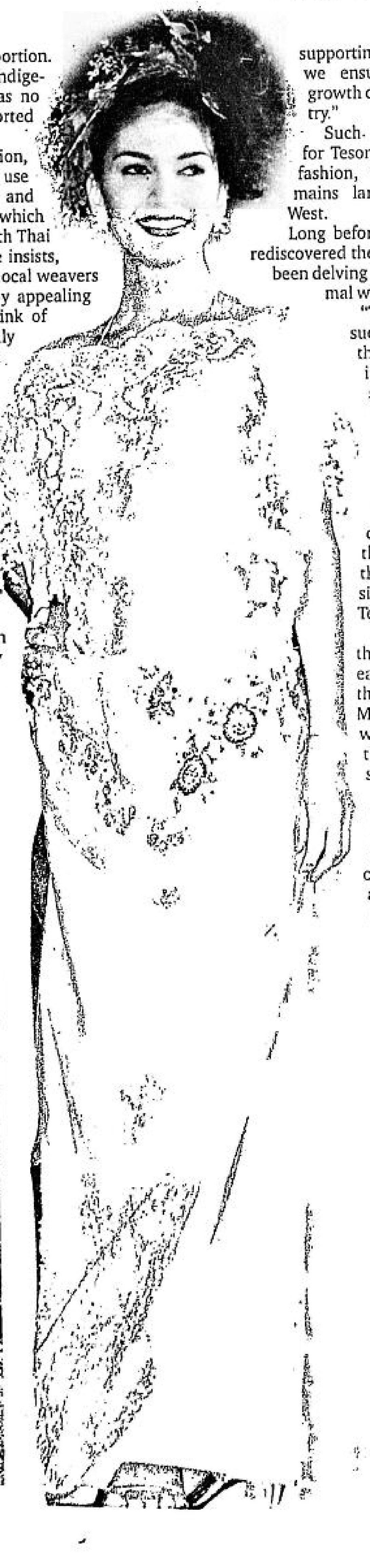
If anything, her latest effort proves that Filipino formal wear, aside from being beautiful, can also be hip and sexy.

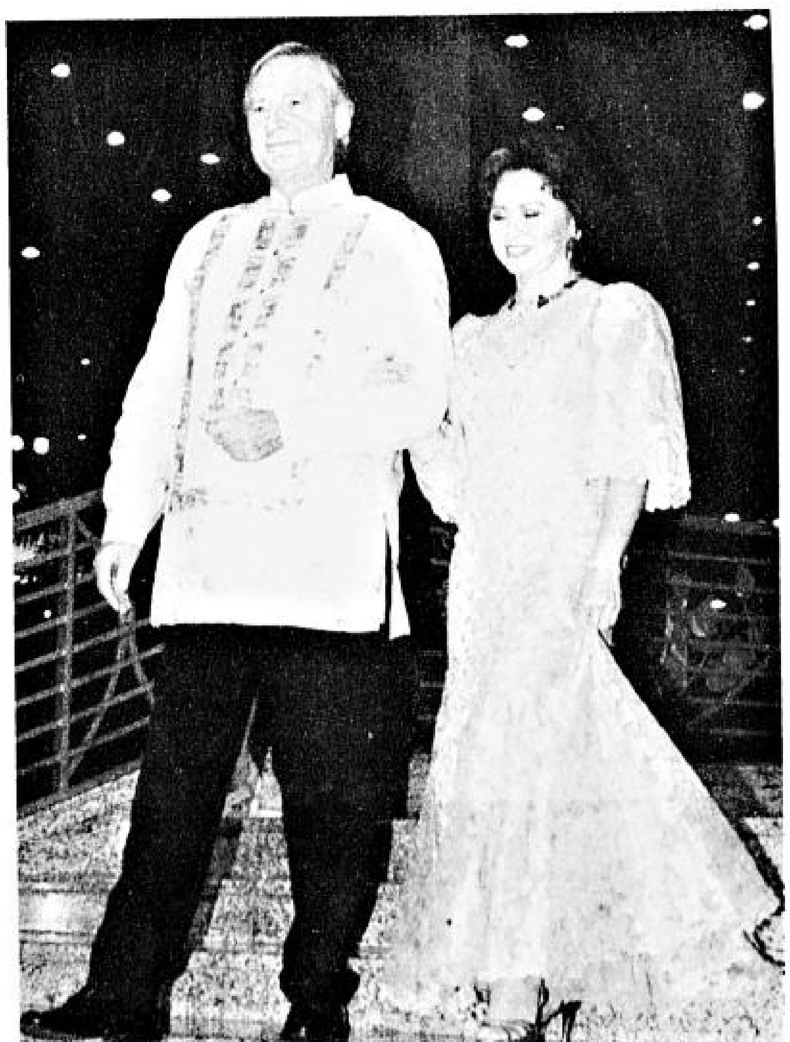
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

> Long before Manila's fashionistas rediscovered the terno, Patis had been delving on Filipino-inspired formal wear

DESIGNER Patis Tesoro and guests


STYLIZED pan-Asian look


BRIDAL gown for the sweet yet sassy girl


REAL people don Tesoro's creations.

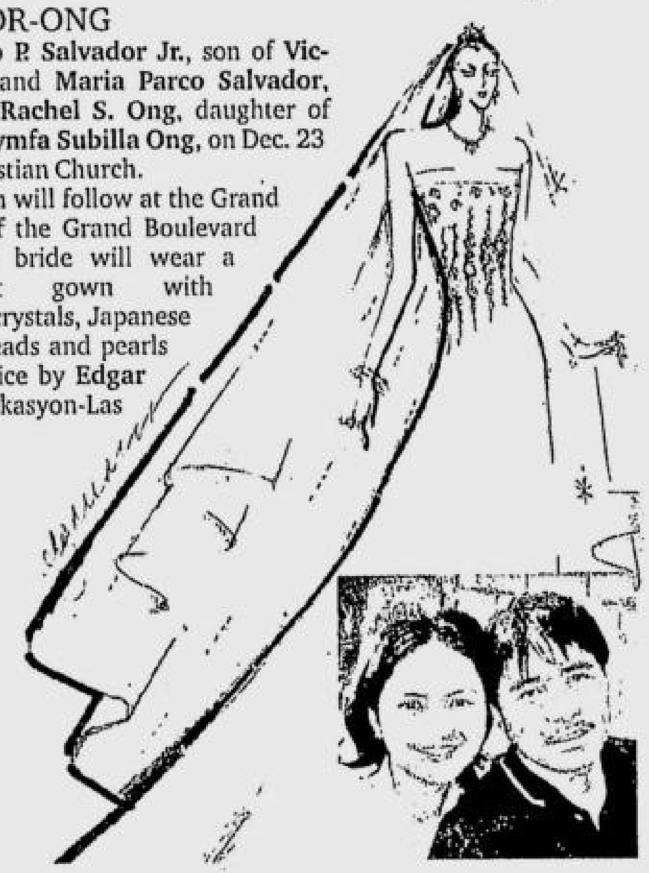
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

SALVADOR-ONG

Victorino P. Salvador Jr., son of **Victorino Sr.** and **Maria Parco Salvador**, will marry **Rachel S. Ong**, daughter of **Jose** and **Nymfa Subilla Ong**, on Dec. 23 at San Sebastian Church.

Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Boulevard Hotel. The bride will wear a princess-cut gown with Swarovski crystals, Japanese cut-glass beads and pearls on the bodice by **Edgar Racca** of Okasyon-Las Piñas.



ALARCON-LUGANOB

Rowland Goh Alarcon, son of **Simeon** and **Anita Alarcon**, will marry **Minnie Chua Luganob**, daughter of **Leoncio** and **Carmen Luganob**, on Sept. 28, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Reception will follow at Asturias Hotel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

LAGMAY-RESURRECCION

Adrian Lagmay, son of **Olivia** and **Isabelo Lagmay Jr.**, and **Aubrey Joyce Resurreccion**, daughter of **Julie** and **Eduardo Resurreccion**, tied the knot recently at the St. Anthony de Padua church, San Andres, Manila. Reception followed at the Executive Plaza Hotel.

WEDDING photo by Jorge's Portraits

Out-of-the-box wedding fair

A WEDDING reception at a fast-food chain. A bridal bus to get the wedding entourage to and from the church. A bright yellow bridal car with a sunroof from where the newlyweds can peek and wave goodbye to family and friends.

Get these and other out-of-the-box wedding ideas at the Wedding Photos Exhibit at the Wedding Expo Philippines on Sept. 4-5 at NBC Tent, Global City.

Wedding Expo Philippines is not just a display of products and services with the participation of more than 160 wedding suppliers for all sorts of wedding needs. It is an oasis of creative, elegant and romantic ideas to make each wedding ceremony and reception truly unique and memorable.

The event has become a trailblazer in wedding innovations. It was at Wedding Expo that use of fireworks for wedding ceremonies and receptions was first introduced. Now, for the first time in a local wedding fair, Wedding Expo will present laser-light wizardry, a masterful use of laser technology to heighten the romance of a wedding affair.

Noted florist Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers & Event Styling will showcase fresh ideas on flower arrangements as the official event stylist of Wedding Expo Philippines. Fabulous banquet setups will also be presented by the country's leading and budding caterers.

Awaiting soon-to-wed couples are a honeymoon to Boracay and other prizes during the hourly raffle draws, as well as exclusive discounts, special giveaways and other unique promos.

Admission is free to soon-to-weds and their guests who will register online at www.themesnmotifs.com.

Major sponsor Equitable Card will provide exciting credit card offers, and Del Monte Recipe Sauce will give away recipe booklets, memory keepers and product samples. Call 3719783 or 4100032, or visit the showrooms at Rockwell or The Podium.

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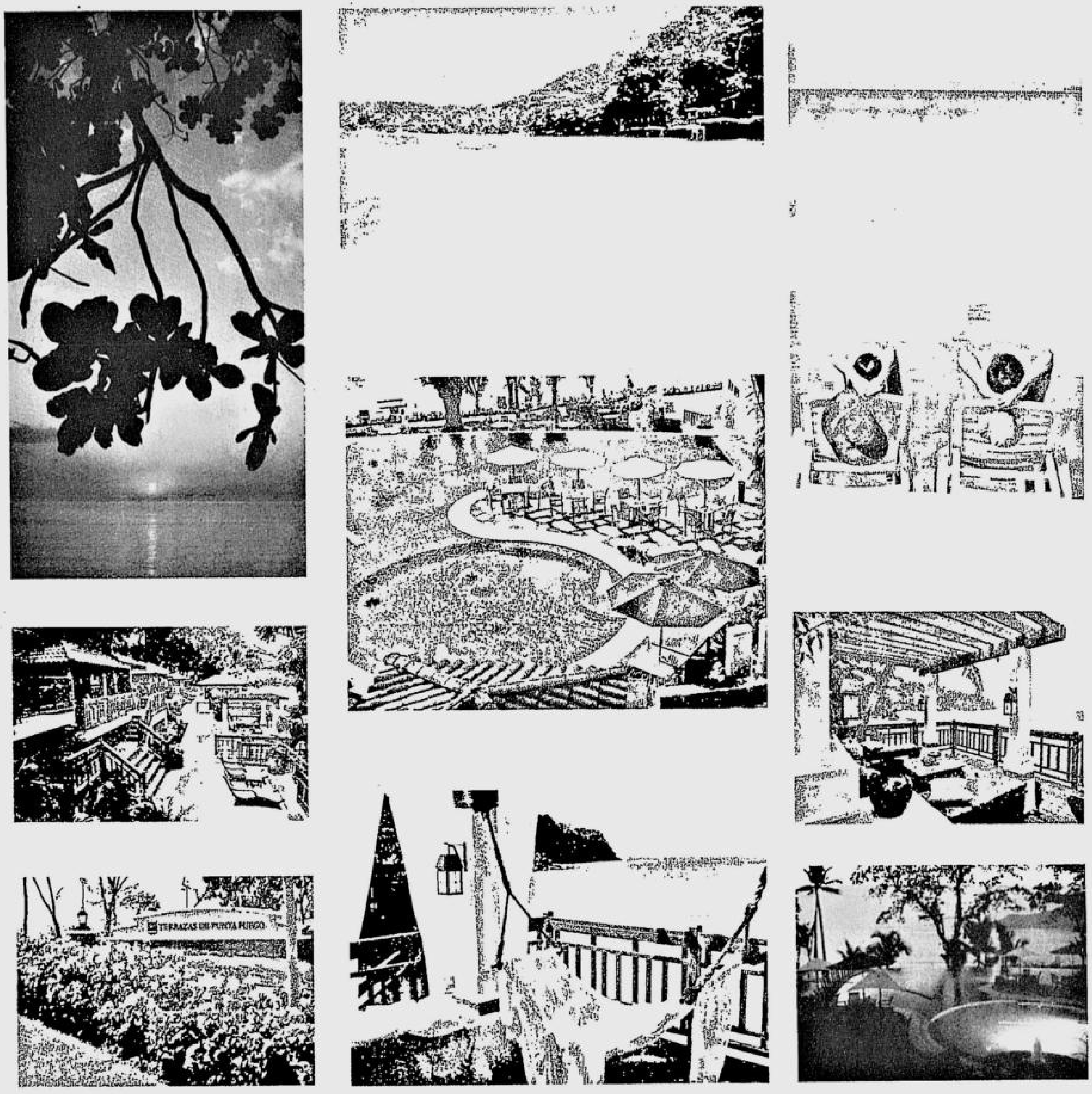

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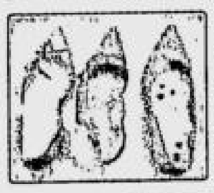
Sneak a peek into savvy silver screen style with myGlobe G-Blogs

About Film Fashionista

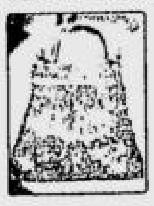
My name's Niña Lazaro, and I'm a certified film and fashion fanatic. I love the cinema and enjoy putting together outfits inspired by my favorite movies: one day, I'm Holly Golightly, the next I'm one of Charlie's Angels.

I have to admit, I wasn't really into blogging until I found out about myGlobe G-Blogs. Curious about this latest lifestyle craze, I decided to register at http://g-blogs.com. It was all very easy, even for a non-blogger like me. I like taking pics of my fashion finds using my camera phone, and MMS them to my girl friends. With G-Blogs, all I have to do is upload these pics to the website, and everyone can browse through my virtual closet. So if you're curious about Film Fashionista, check out these sample entries from my G-Blog!



Date: August 23, 2004
Movie in my mind: Legally Blonde (2001)

This shoe line is actually named after Drew Barrymore's character in The Wedding Singer, but aren't they *sooo* Elle Woods? Especially the pink and mauve suede slingback pumps in the middle. They're perfect for days when you need just a teeny confidence boost. Pink is definitely my power color. ^_^

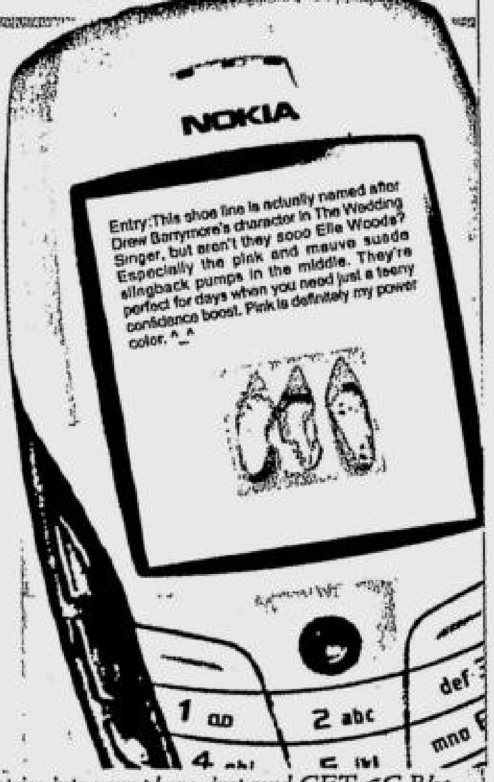


Date: August 24, 2004
Movie in my mind: In the Mood for Love/*Fa Yeung Nin Wa* (2000)

Apart from being one of the most poignant love stories ever told, In the Mood for Love boasts of brilliantly restrained acting, fantastic cinematography, and the most exquisite cheongsams ever to grace the silver screen. Every time I watch the movie, I always feel in the mood for some shopping. And this time, I snagged this Chinese-inspired handbag at a thrift store.

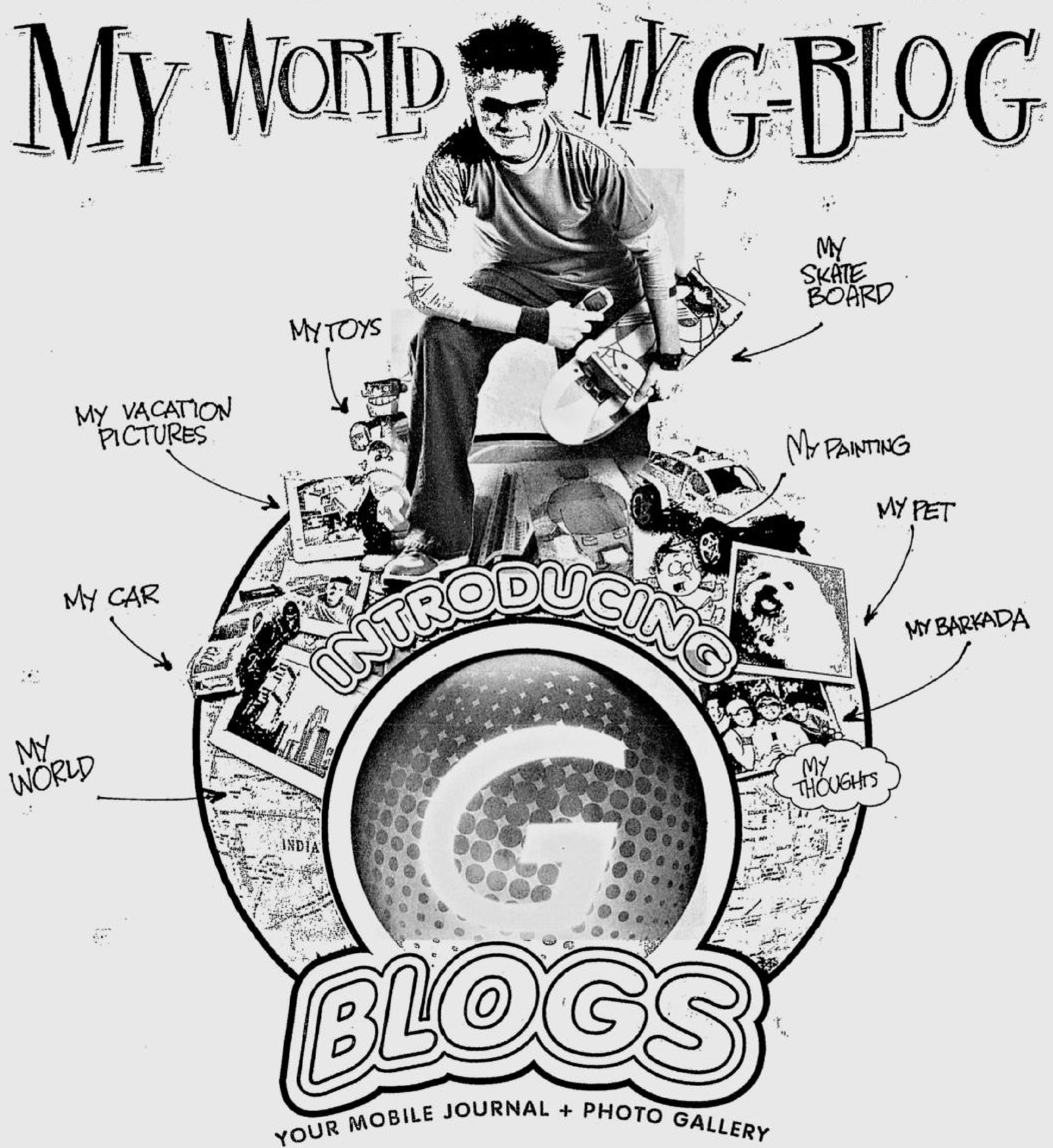
Date: August 26, 2004
Movie in my mind: The Stepford Wives (2004)

Nicole Kidman is one of my favorite actresses, so I just had to watch The Stepford Wives. And while I have mixed feelings about the remake – I vaguely remember being disturbed by the movie as a child— I liked the Stepford wives' vintage look. When I got home, I rummaged through my closet and found this pink cashmere sweater and floral print circle skirt. This outfit is as close as I'll ever get to being the perfect little Stepford wife. Thank heavens!



Entry:This shoe line is actually named after Drew Barrymore's character in The Wedding Singer, but aren't they sooo Elle Woods? Especially the pink and mauve suede slingback pumps in the middle. They're perfect for days when you need just a teeny confidence boost. Pink is definitely my power color. ^_^

For more of Niña's silver screen style, log on to the G-Blogs site and search for Film Fashionista's blog. To download her entries into your phone, just send GET <G-Blog ID#> and send to 2815. Each P5.00 download allows you to view up to three of her G-Blog entries. To get a G-Blog ID#, send INQ <G-Blog name> to 2815. Note: the G-Blog name can be found at the end of the G-Blog URL.



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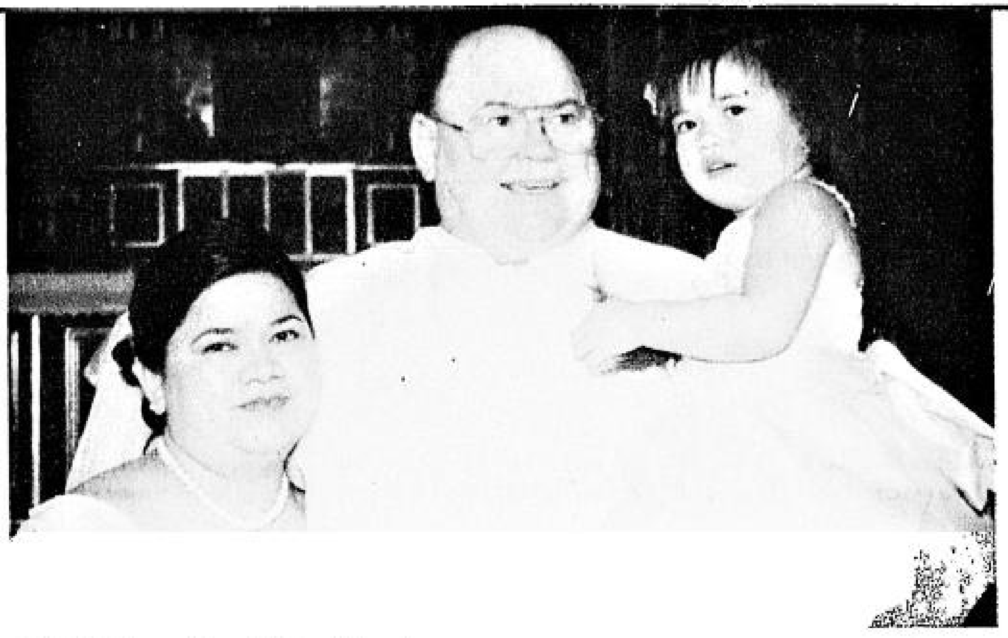
BINALLA-WHEELER NUPTIALS

Monsoon wedding

After swearing off romance, Angie Binalla could not resist an Internet ad for the American Single website



ANGIE, Bob and Jewell Mary Wheeler

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

THE BRIDE had their 3-year-old daughter in tow, and the husband had none of the shyness and fear that make first-time grooms walk on leaden feet. In fact, Bob Wheeler served up a long kiss at the end of their vows that had former INQUIRER secretary Angie Binalla-Wheeler gently admonishing him, as only practiced wives can: "Okay, that's enough now."

Getting married in civil rites in Oklahoma exactly four years earlier was apparently not enough for the couple, who opted for a grand church wedding in the Philippines despite the monsoon rains and howling winds on June 23.

Such a downpour, old folks like to say, can only mean abundant blessings. Indeed, the blessings they have enjoyed since they got together through the Net must have made Bob and Angie decide on a gold theme when they reaffirmed their vows at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral at Plaza Rizal, Pasig.

Neither rain nor wind

Defying the weather and the work that must have piled up midweek, INQUIRER friends and colleagues showed up in full force. Marching down the aisle with her father Jesus Binalla and her uncle, Dionisio Barona, youngest brother of her mother, Angie counted among her principal sponsors INQUIRER associate editor Abel Ulanday; advertising vice president Pepito Olarte, who was proxied by his son Willie; SVP for corporate services Dave O. Valdes, who proxied special sections editor Cesar Mangawang; accounting head Evelyn Escueta; treasury head Sonia Whitaker; Sunday Magazine managing editor, Pennie A. dela Cruz; and former library staff Ludy Licayan.

Assistant vice president for corporate planning and business development Imee Alcantara was maid of honor. Secondary sponsors included advertising staff Beth Andres, purchasing staff Emily Millare, and business sub-editor Corrie Narisma.

The couple's doll-like daughter Jewell Mary was flower girl, along with pretty Alexandra Arazas, firstborn of photographer Erik and co-op secretary Aida Arazas.

Among the carousers were INQUIRER administration head Nitz del Rosario, Lita Perez, Margie P. de la Vega, Rita Viray, Thillie Panlilio, Lorna Tan, Karen Garcia, Becky Canlas, Mercy Rosales, Neyla Espinosa, Jojo Samonte, Lala Montesines, Gina Layague, Charles Buban, Aries Espinosa, Eugene Araneta, Raffy Esturas and Medy Gregorio.

INQUIRER in Pasig

It certainly looked like the INQUIRER business offices had moved to Pasig for that day. This time, the "office lunch" was more filling: Pastel de Lengua, Sweet and Sour Fish, Pancit Canton

MONSOON/F2

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JOSEPH Binalla, Rey Narisma, Edsel Binalla, Ben Millare (back row); Imee Alcantara, Mila Binalla, Beth Andres, Angie and Bob, Remy Casitas, Corrie Narisma and Emily Millare (second row); Jesan and Jam Jam Binalla, Alexandra Arazas and Jomil Binalla (kids)

WITH the INQUIRER staff: Maria Espaldon, Ludivina Licayan, Narni Alcantara, Carmen Tiomico, Sonia Whitaker and Evelyn Escueta

WITH CHARLES
Buban, La
Montesines, Li
Perez, Donna Escuet
and Mr. Whitake

Monsoon wedding

THE NEWLYWEDS: Bob and Angie Wheeler (nee Binalla)

From page F1

and Max's fried chicken.

But what filled the hearts of the wedding guests was Angie and Bob's love story that started when the INQUIRER secretary saw on her computer screen the "Free Ad!" come-on of the American Single website in May 1999.

Then 39, Angie had sworn off romance after a breakup with her boyfriend, but the blinking blurb was irresistible. A day after submitting her personal data, she got five responses—from a Briton, a Czech, a Japanese and two Americans.

In Louisiana, 51-year-old John Robert Wheeler saw Angie's ad and immediately fired back a letter of introduction. Bob, then a diver of a company that maintains sea vessels, exchanged correspondence with Angie for a month or so but so did the others. Angie was confused and itched for a sign. Quickly, before her bosses realized, she was grafted to the computer for reasons other than work.

"It came one night when I decided to wait out the rains in the office," Angie recalls. With nothing much to do, she sent an electronic card to the five men with the message, "I wish I could hear your voice." To her surprise, the phone rang a short while later and a strange voice drawled, "May I speak with Engie?" She recounts: "I don't know how I knew but I just found myself saying, 'Hello, Bob?'"

Alarming news

Thus started an online romance that initially alarmed her widowed father. But breaking the news slowly did the trick, and before Bob's first visit to her hometown in Bicol, Angie saw signs of parental thaw. Her father was raising chickens and fattening up a pig—for her guest, he said.

Marriage still seemed a fearful prospect even after Bob presented her a Fe Panlilio engagement ring, says Angie, what with all those dire stories about mail-order brides, the clash of cultures, being cut off from home and family, and the resulting sense of isolation.

Allaying her fears, Bob took pains to locate a Filipino community in Louisiana and introduced Angie to Filipino friends of friends. Reassured, she flew to New Orleans in June 2000 and immediately established her Filipino identity.

As Bob recalls, "Not a day passed that Angelica was not filling the entire house with her singing." Fortunately, this did not discourage Bob and parents Frank and Lafon Wheeler. On June 23, 2000, the couple tied the knot at the courthouse in Norman, Oklahoma.

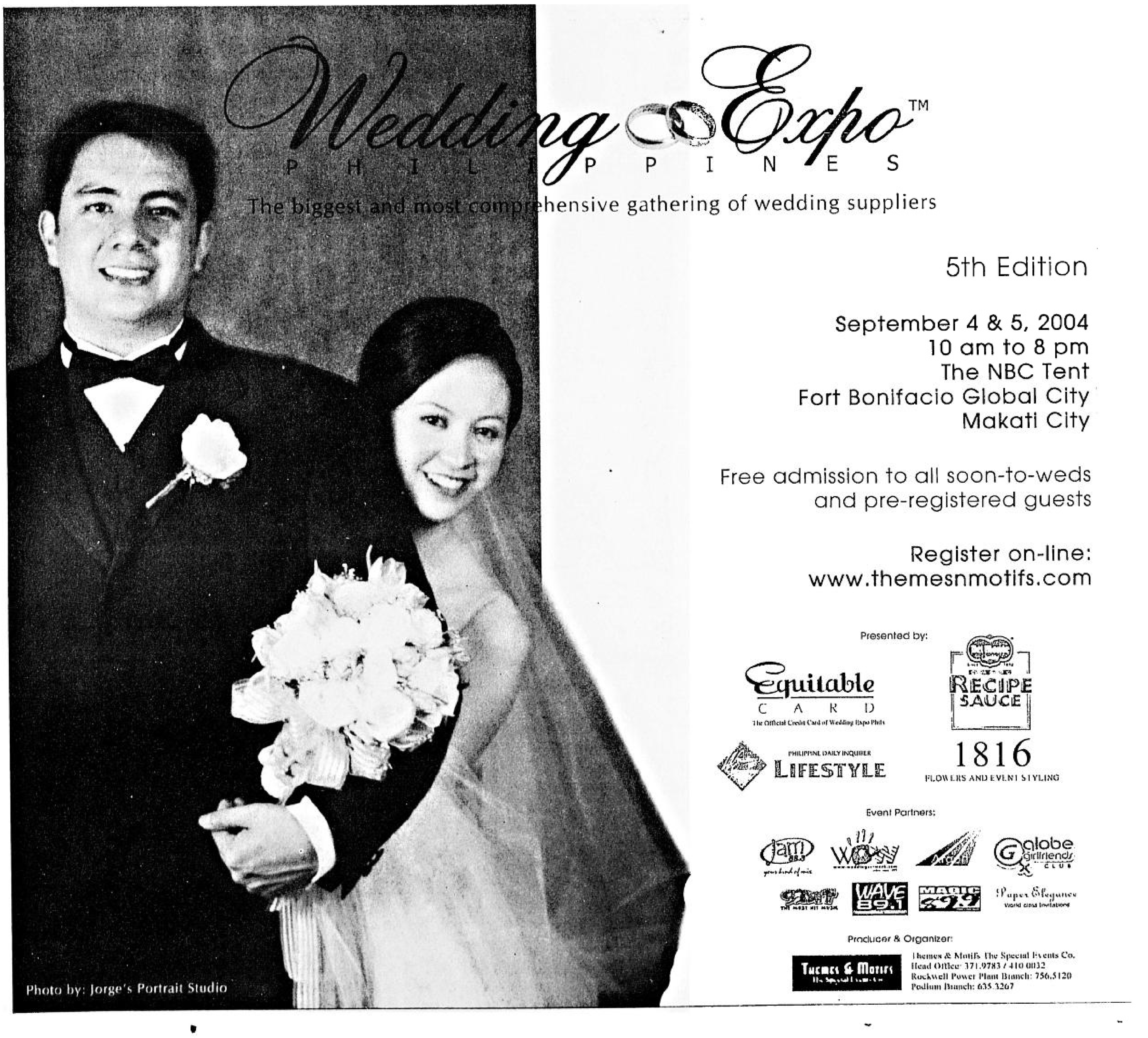
After a miscarriage, the Wheelers finally had their firstborn, Jewell Mary, whose photos began clogging up the INQUIRER's mailbox. Not that her former colleagues minded; they were just too happy for Angie.

Back home, says Bob, the singing in the house has doubled, what with Angie and Jewell filling the air with their voices and laughter.

Marital bliss wasn't complete, however. The couple remembered their promise to Angie's father: They would return for a proper church wedding. Blustery winds or not, bride and groom kept that promise.

Sometime between dessert and the bouquet toss, the skies cleared up. Which just proves, once again, that even the forces of nature are no match to love and commitment.

BOB, Jewell Mary and Angie with (seated) Beth Andres, Neyla Espinosa, Thillie Panlilio, Aries Espinosa and Gina Layague



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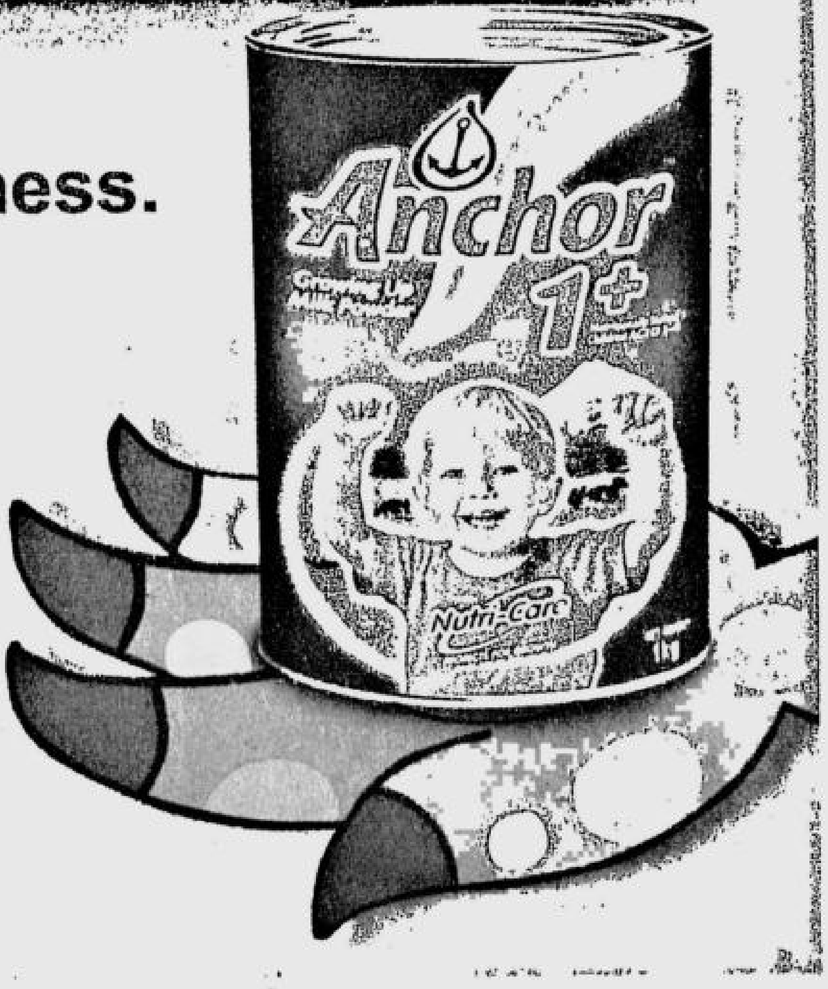

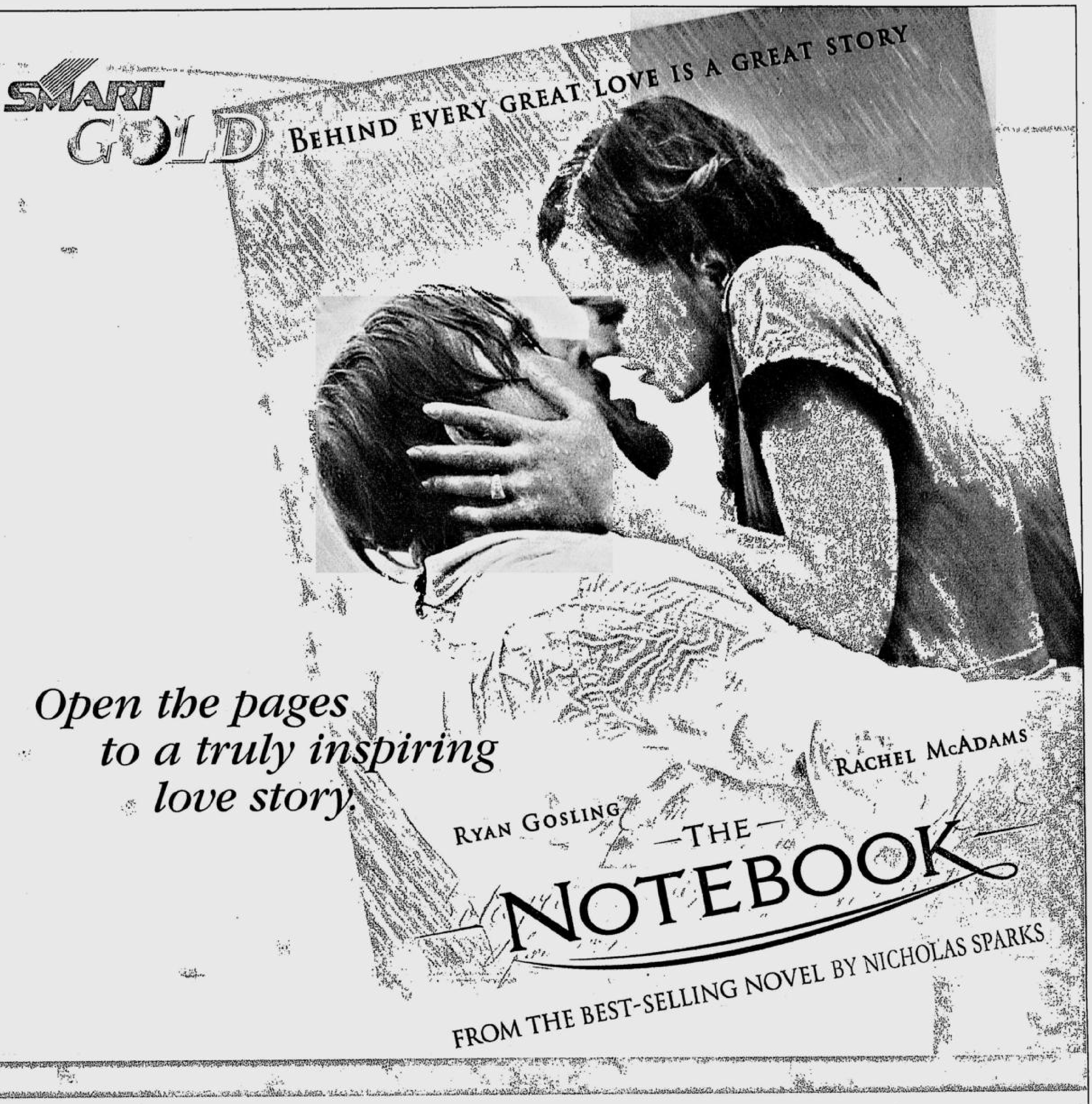
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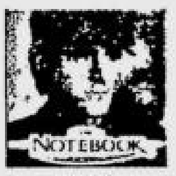
NBW3

NBW4

NBW5

NBW7

NBW8

Text *MMS* <keyword> to *209.*

TONES

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
NBT1	I Could Not Ask For More	Edwin McCain
NBT2	There You'll Be	Faith Hill
NBT3	The First Cut Is The Deepest	Sheryl Crow
NBT4	When We Dance	Sting
NBT5	Sweet Surrender	Sarah Mclachlan
NBT6	I Don't Wanna Wait	Paula Cole
NBT7	How Do I Live	Trisha Yearwood
NBT8	Foolish Games	Jewel
NBT9	Don't Know Why	Norah Jones
NBT10	White Flag	Dido

Text *TONE* or *POLY* <keyword> to *209.*

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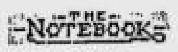
NBL1

NBL2

NBL3

NBL4

NBL6

NBL8

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PICTURE MESSAGES

NBP1

NBP2

NBP4

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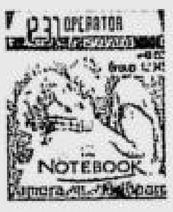
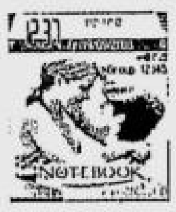
THEMES





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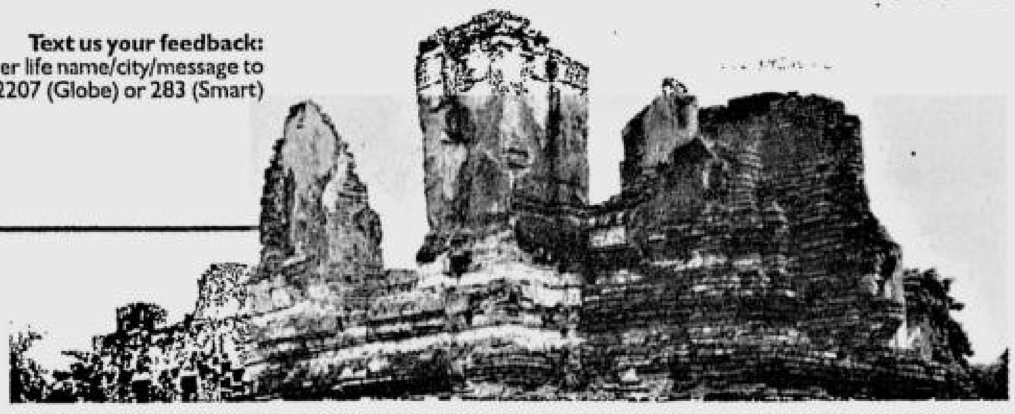

THE ISLAND-CITY of Ayutthaya is 76 km north of Bangkok, and is one of Thailand's major tourist attractions.

Awesome Ayutthaya

Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

THE ARCHITECTURAL ruins of Ayutthaya, Thailand—layers of stark red bricks against the clear, blue sky—are exquisitely divine in disrepair.

Although the crumbled walls and empty hallways speak of an ancient Siamese civilization frozen at its most violent end, this majestic island-city, once the home of 33 kings, three palaces and 400 temples, still commands the kind of austere reverence it rightfully deserves.

Ayutthaya was ancient Thailand's seat of power until over 200 years ago. The Burmese razed the city after a 15-month siege in 1767, leaving the plundered capital in rubble, its populace killed, displaced or shipped off into slavery.

Today, what remains of this historic kingdom are clusters of battered architectural skeletons, rows of headless Buddhas and weathered temple corridors where thick patches of grass greedily thrive. It was recognized by the Unesco as a World Heritage Site in 1991.

Flourishing entrepot

Once Asia's most prosperous capital, Ayutthaya (pronounced *eye-you-tee-uh*) was established in 1350 by King U-Thong (Ramathibodi I), becoming the second Siamese capital after the Sukhothai period. The island is threaded by three rivers—Chao Phraya, Pasak and Lopburi.

Its riverine geography allowed it to rapidly develop into a flourishing foreign trade business, first with neighboring Chinese and Muslim nations, eventually stretching to as far as Europe and Japan. The Ayutthaya period marked early Thai history's era of international trade, and the city became one of Southeast Asia's richest emporia.

For over 400 years, Ayutthaya was a city astonishing for its time. Foreign ambassadors were said to have compared its size and wealth to those of Paris and London. Indeed, it must have been quite a sight—a landscape crisscrossed with several canals and waterways that were also used as roads, and hundreds of Buddhist temples all over.

The city architecture is an interesting mix of Khmer and early Sukhothai styles. Their cactus-shaped obelisks are reminiscent of the towers of Cambodia's famous Angkor Wat, while the pointed stupas are attributed to the Sukhothai period. But the city and its governance are deeply influenced by the early Khmer empire, brought on by King U-Thong.

Thai society during the Ayutthaya period, for instance, became hierarchical. Kings were not mere Buddhist rulers; they were god-kings, and "no one dared utter their names." They had sacred powers associated with the Hindu gods Indra and Vishnu.

People were divided into classes—princes, nobles, commoners (freemen) and slaves—with the god-king at the top of the structure. There was, of course, the "classless" sector that comprised the Buddhist monkhood, an institution that welded together different social classes.

The *wats* or temples served as the seat of education in ancient days. It was restricted only to Thai males, and the monks were

AWESOME/G2

POINTED stupas from the Sukhothai period

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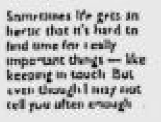
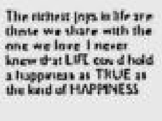
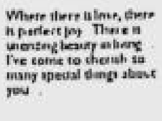


Sometimes life gets so hectic that it's hard to find time for really important things — like keeping in touch. But even though I may not tell you often enough



The richest joys in life are those we share with the one we love. I never knew that LIFE could hold a happiness as TRUE as the kind of HAPPINESS



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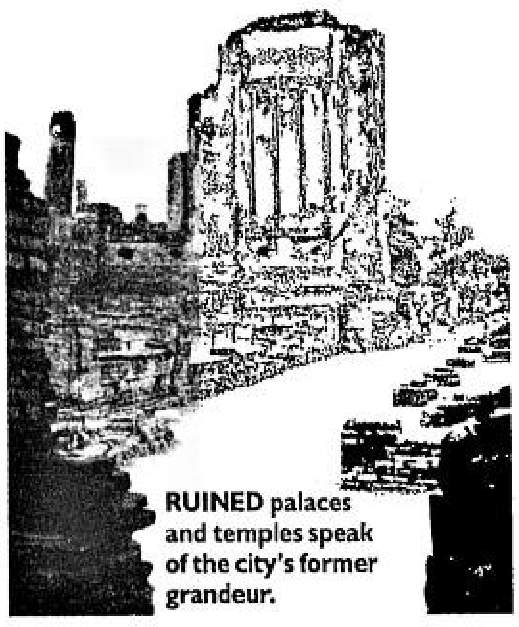
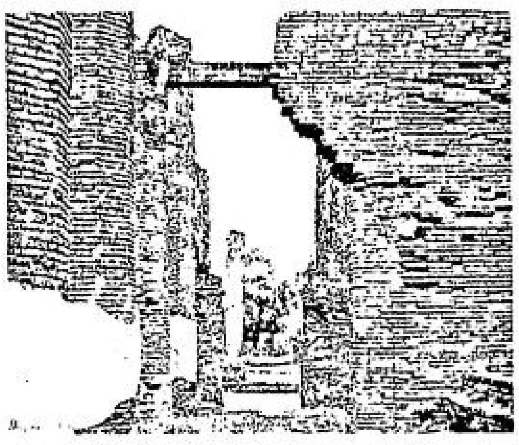
Awesome Ayutthaya

PAVILIONS were completely destroyed, leaving only brick foundations, porticos and walls.



RUINED palaces and temples speak of the city's former grandeur.



AYUTTHAYA, destroyed by Burmese invaders in 1767, has a direct link to Thai royalty, past and present.

Thailand's ancient seat of power still commands the kind of austere reverence it rightfully deserves

From page G1

expected to impart not only intellectual wisdom but moral guidance as well. Thai *wats*, in fact, are traditionally a school, hospital, community center and entertainment venue. Today, many modern schools are still found within Thailand's temples.

Cosmopolitan character

Ayutthaya flaunted its true cosmopolitan character, however, when it began to shelter thousands of immigrants—mostly traders who were initially attracted to the city's thriving market that showcased merchandise from all corners of Asia—and when the Thai kings granted them complete freedom of worship. And so there arose Portuguese and French churches, and a Japanese colony as well.

But Ayutthaya's relationship with its powerful neighbor to the West, Burma, was not always pleasant. While Ayutthaya's power and wealth held steady throughout this period, Burma's waxed and waned according to the power and efficiency of its ruler. And whenever Burma adopted an expansionist policy, Ayutthaya was its prime target.

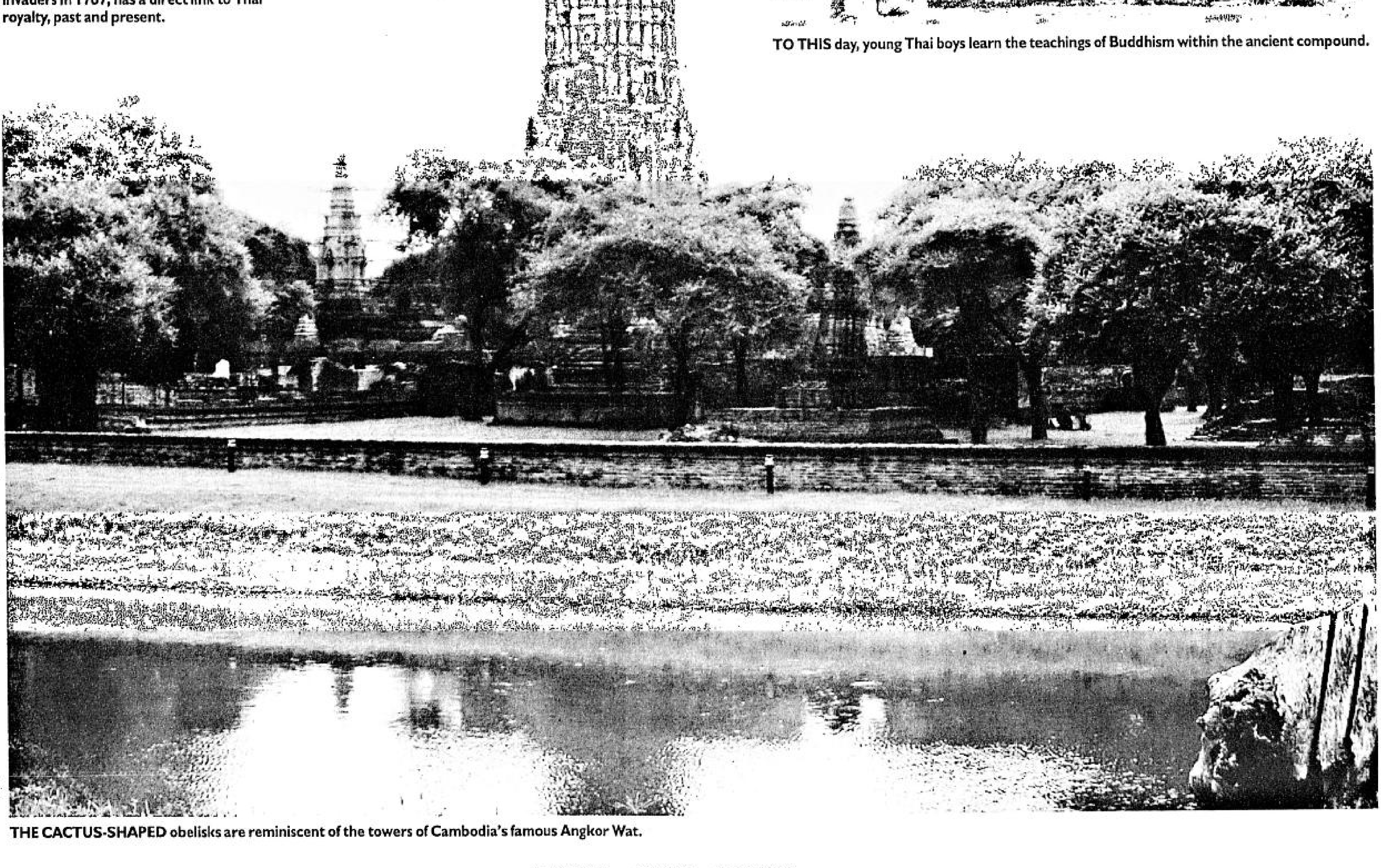
An earlier battle between the two countries in 1569 put Ayutthaya under Burmese rule for over a decade before a prince, who later became King Naresuan, reclaimed the city's independence when he killed the Burmese crown prince in combat.

It was only in April 1767 that Ayutthaya finally succumbed to the Burmese. The city's defenses crumbled against the determined Burmese warriors, and its glory and grandeur were no more. The defeat put an end to one of the richest, most powerful and colorful epochs in Thai history.

Still, Ayutthaya's tattered walls and rugged roads have withstood the onslaught of time. Although the city's remains are a mere shadow of its former glory, they remain proudly defiant, undaunted even in defeat.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

TO THIS day, young Thai boys learn the teachings of Buddhism within the ancient compound.



THE CACTUS-SHAPED obelisks are reminiscent of the towers of Cambodia's famous Angkor Wat.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Nonstop flight to Amsterdam

THE FASTEST way to Europe begins Nov. 1 when KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, with Air France, will fly nonstop from Manila to Amsterdam.

This makes KLM the only carrier in the country to fly directly to Europe. The airline will have five nonstop flights weekly, departing Manila at 10:30 p.m. and arriving at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol at 5:30 a.m. the following day.

Visit www.klm.com.ph or call 8154790 to 92.

New direct flight to India

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) will fly direct from Singapore to the Indian state of Punjab from Oct. 1, when the airline starts its thrice-weekly B777 service to Amritsar.

With the new service, SIA will be serving seven Indian destinations including New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bangalore. This brings to 38 SIA's nonstop weekly flights to the Indian sub-continent.

SilkAir, SIA's regional wing, operates 11 weekly services to Hyderabad, Kochi and Thinuvananthapuram.

Passengers from Manila may take any of three daily SIA flights to Singapore to connect to the new flights to Amritsar. Those coming from Cebu and Davao may fly directly to Singapore with SilkAir before connecting to Amritsar.

Call your travel agent or Singapore Airlines at 8104951 in Manila, and SilkAir in Cebu at 2326211 and in Davao at 2245608.

Special Boracay promo

TREAT yourself to a Boracay adventure by availing of Le Soleil's special room packages until Oct. 15.

The package offers a room for as low as P3,880 on triple sharing. It includes 3 days/2 nights accommodation in a Le Soleil deluxe room, American or Filipino set breakfast for two days, one set dinner, roundtrip land and boat transfers and a welcome drink upon arrival.

A complimentary bottle of Le Soleil Massage Oil awaits guests who will have a massage in their own rooms.

Call Le Soleil de Boracay sales office at 8996779/8951777 loc. 1712, 1714 and 1715 or log on to www.lesoleil.com.ph.

Banaue's grandeur in one tour

THERE is more to Banaue than its world-famous rice terraces. Find out for yourself by joining Inscribe Tours' Banaue-Sagada Tour from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3.

Inscribe will take participants not only on a visual experience of Cordillera's awe-inspiring rice terraces but also on an enriching exploration of other interesting places in the region.

Included in the itinerary are the Valley of Echoes, Sumaging and Lumiang caves, Beyer and Bontoc museums, Eduardo Masferre's studio, a Sagada weaving shop, the trade center and others.

Side by side with the Banaue-Sagada tour will be the Grand Ilocos Tour and Food Trip, departing and returning on the same dates. Slots are limited for the Banaue-Sagada tour. Call 5758370, 8405912 or text 0919-8184697.

Pinoy revelry in Vienna

DR. LITO Aleta, Wolfgang Pozsogar and Dr. Isabel Aleta

(Standing) GLORIA Alcala, Danny Caacbay, Lina Tabo, Dr. and Ms Kreutzler; (seated) Becky Garcia, Ed Vista, Ambassador Victor Garcia III and wife Connie, Edgar Simbulan and Lorna Titgemeyer

THIS year's Philippine Independence Day celebrations in Vienna, Austria, had an array of memorable and colorful events.

It started with the National Flag Day held at the embassy residence attended by Ambassador Victor Garcia III and Connie G. Garcia, consuls and staff of the Philippine embassy, presidents of different Filipino organizations in Vienna, and friends in the diplomatic, cultural and social communities.

Next, "An Evening with a Cause" featured Adolovni Acosta, piano, and Adolfo Timnat, guitar, in a concert held for the benefit of needy individuals in the Philippines sponsored by Ancop. It was followed by the ball of the Integrated Filipinos in Austria, where nurses and individuals who had been working in Austria for the last 30 years were also recognized.

Around a thousand guests, mainly young people, came to another charity event—a dance competition organized by Puto Luna.

There was also "Pista sa Barangay" held in Pfarre Leopoldau, one of the most well-attended feasts, with about 3,000 revelers this year.

The Barrio Fiesta was organized by the Association Circulo Caviteño under Ed Vista, president, and the Association of Novo Ecijanos under Edgar Simbulan, president. It was a whole-day program, with many Filipino organizations and individuals participating in the event and providing entertainment.

A painting exhibit followed a week later at the United Nations. Four young contemporary artists based in Manila were on tour to promote "Unang Hakbang, Pilipinas para sa Buong Mundo," an upcoming coffee-table book that will celebrate the beauty of the Philippines. Target launching is summer 2005.

The four artists exhibiting their works were Aris Bagtas, Wilfredo Offemaria, Aner Sebastian and Norman Dreo. Also on hand were Ver Cuizon, publisher of the forthcoming book, and Bill Perez, project manager.

Connie Guanzon-Garcia, who studied painting techniques and got several lessons in Austria, also had a parallel exhibition. Since November of last year, she has been invited to several exhibitions in the United Nations and, together with some ambassadors' wives, in the Imperial Hotel in Vienna.

Virgilio Castillo was the other artist joining the exhibit. He has had several painting exhibits in Austria in the last few years.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Philippine embassy and the VIC-Club Filipino.

June 11 was the highlight of the Philippine Independence Day celebrations, with a ball held at the SAS Radisson Hotel in the heart of Vienna.

Among the guests were Ambassador Brill and his wife (United States), Ambassadors McGregor (United Kingdom), Ronan Murphy (Ireland), Rudolf Horstmann (Germany), Esther Kelly (Argentina), Peter Jenkins (China), Oscar Cabello (Paraguay) and Madame Lika Sveenisan, wife of the ambassador of India.

Also seen were professor Waltraud Steinbeck, Philippine Honorary Consul to St. Polten, professor-designer Dr. Kristian Fenzl and wife Veronika, and many more. Wines, Philippine delicacies and Austrian food were served.

During the ball, art director Minnie Langer presented a cavalcade of Filipino dances. The "Jota Caviteno" and "La Studiantina" were danced by members of Folklorico Filipino.

The next day, June 12, it was the turn of the Philippine community in Vienna to have their own ball. The organizers were two young dynamic organizations, the Association of Novo Ecijanos and Circulo Caviteño. Attended by several hundred Filipinos and international guests, the ball, held at the Austria Center, was a hit.

Becky Garcia, president of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines Inc., and bank manager Gloria Alcala were among the special guests.

Three big Austrian pharmacy-companies who gave medicines to the poor and the needy in the Philippines were given recognition during the ball program. Manfred Schneider of Herba Chemosan came to receive the award. Brigitte Gruber of Astra Ceneca and Peter Herbeck of Sanova Pharma, were the other recipients of the awards.

The medicines were distributed in the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Valenzuela, Bulacan, Bacolod City, Camarines Sur and Mindoro.

FOLKLORICO Filipino dancers: (front) Claudia Ziegler-Santos, Roxanne Garcia; (back) Dustin Arellano, Kathleen Arcenal, Cel Garcia, Irene Bollozos and Errol Pagsuyoin

GINA Charito Valenzuela Blasl, Dr. Mary Ann de la Cruz and Inday Eva Valenzuela Pozsogar

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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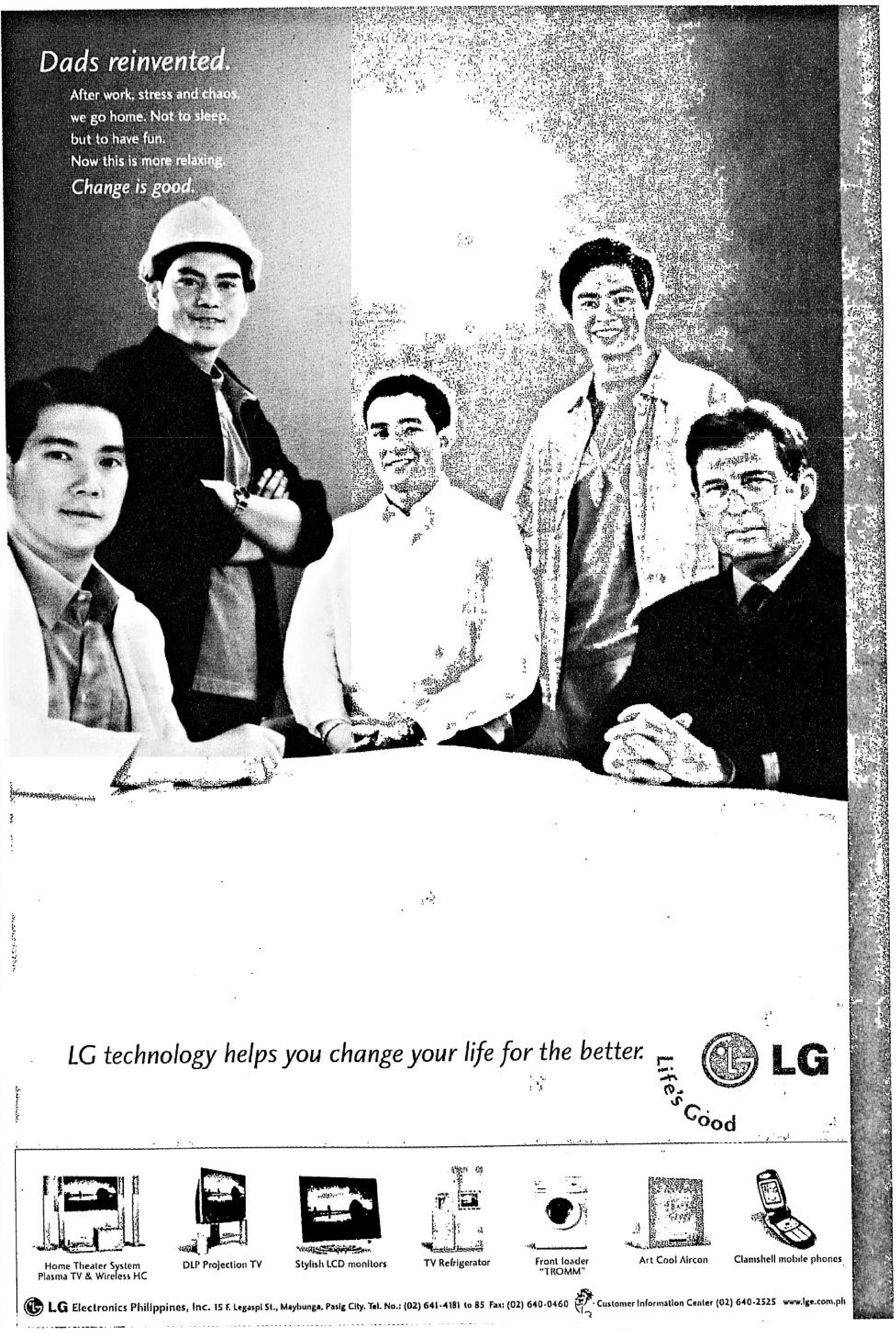
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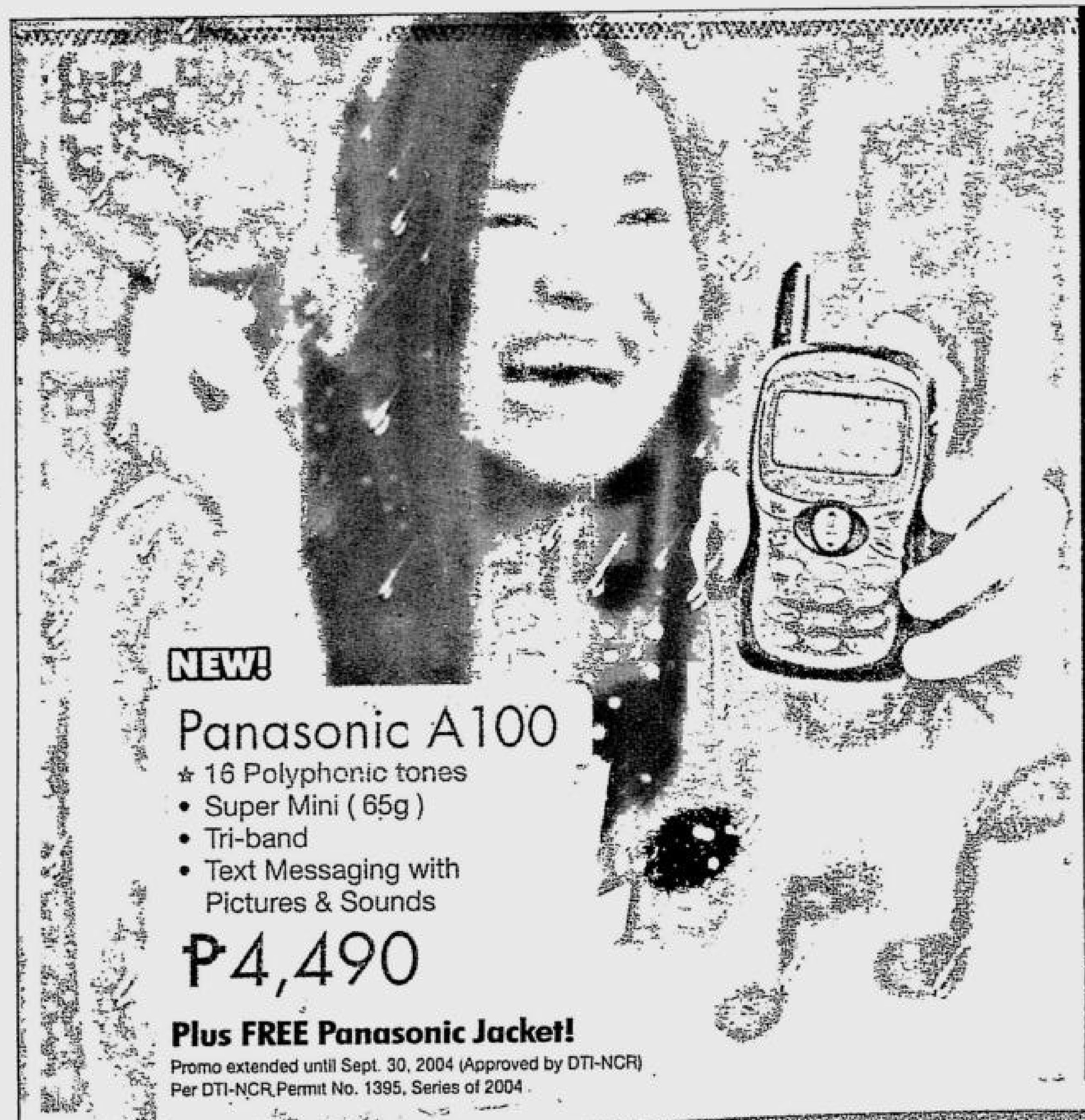

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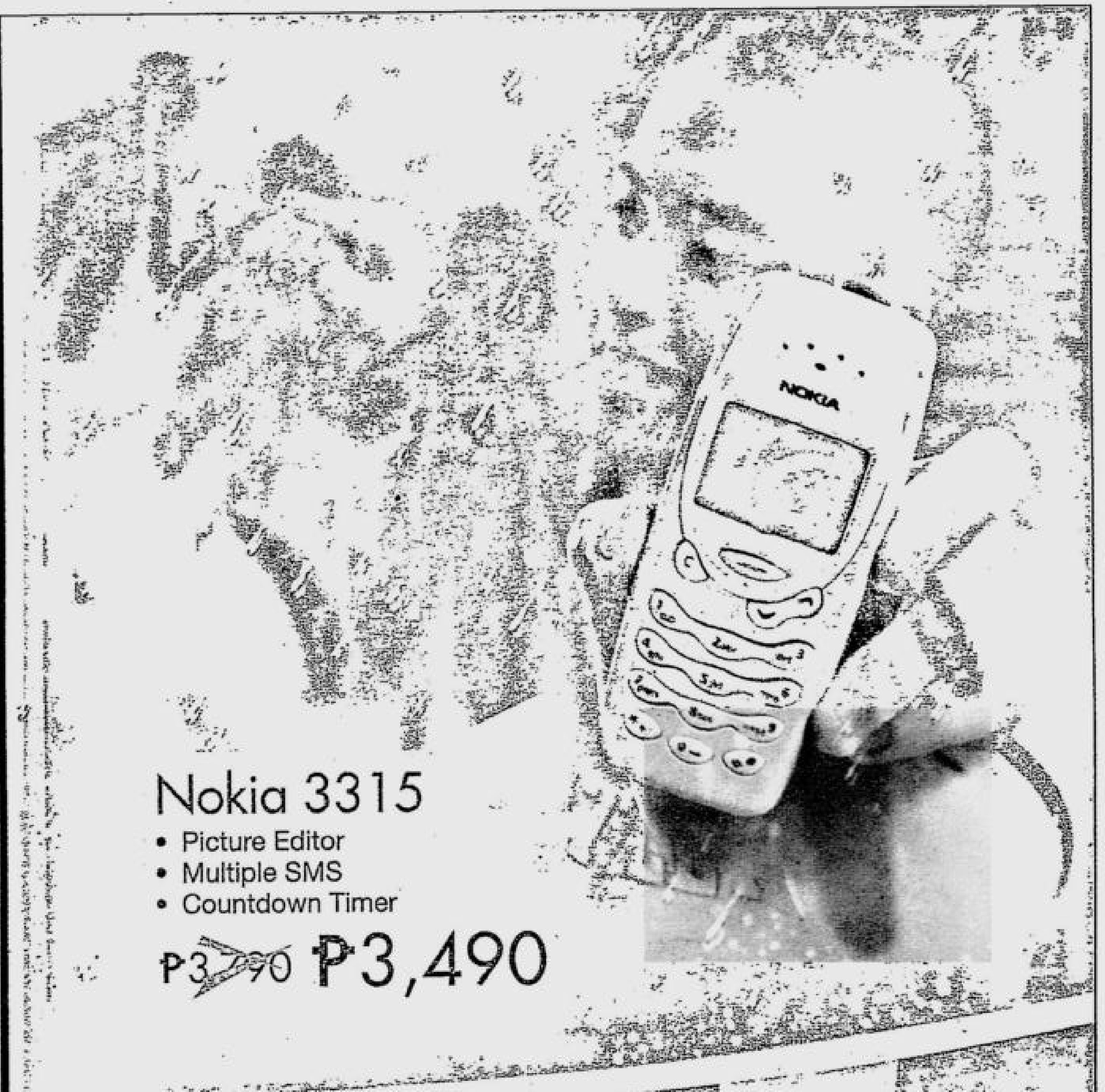

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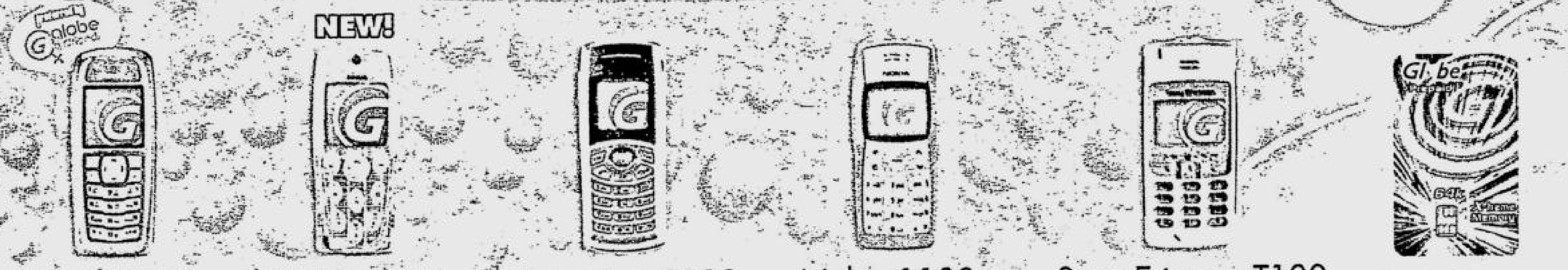

Nokia 3100

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- 4,096 Color Display
- Tri-band
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- Java-ready
- Polyphonic Tones

Nokia 3200

₱9,990

- ☆ Built-in Camera
- 4,096 Color Display
- Tri-band
- Java & WAP-ready
- MMS-capable
- Polyphonic Tones

Samsung C100

~~₱8,690~~ ₱8,390

- 65,536 Color Display
- Java-ready
- GPRS-capable
- 40 Polyphonic Tones

Nokia 1100

~~₱4,990~~ ₱4,690

- Built-in Flashlight
- Animated Screen Saver
- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds

Sony Ericsson T100

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- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds
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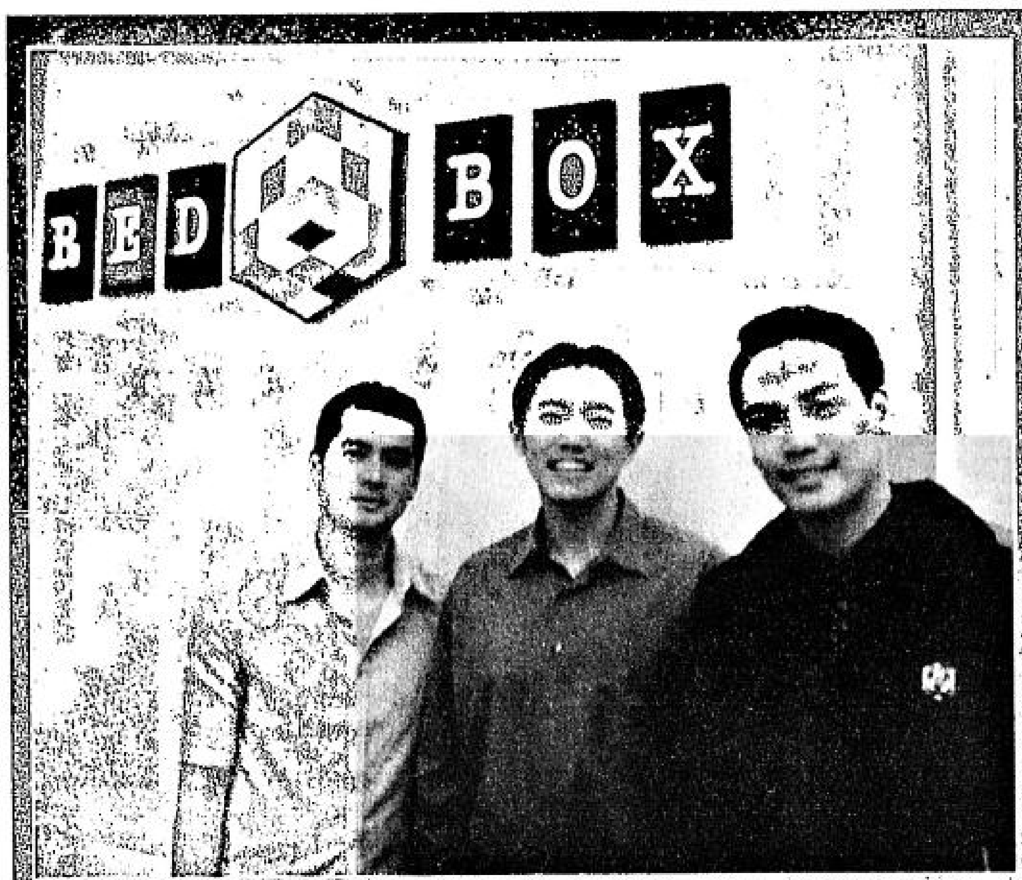


IT'S RAINING MEN. Operations manager Jamie Aguilar, managing director Walden Chu and senior supervisor David Guevarra.

Red hot sing-out nights

The most fun place in Greenbelt is not a night club or a restaurant—it's a karaoke bar!

WE ARE FAMILY. Berna Romulo-Puyat and kids Maia and Vito enjoy singing Disney songs when at Red Box.

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

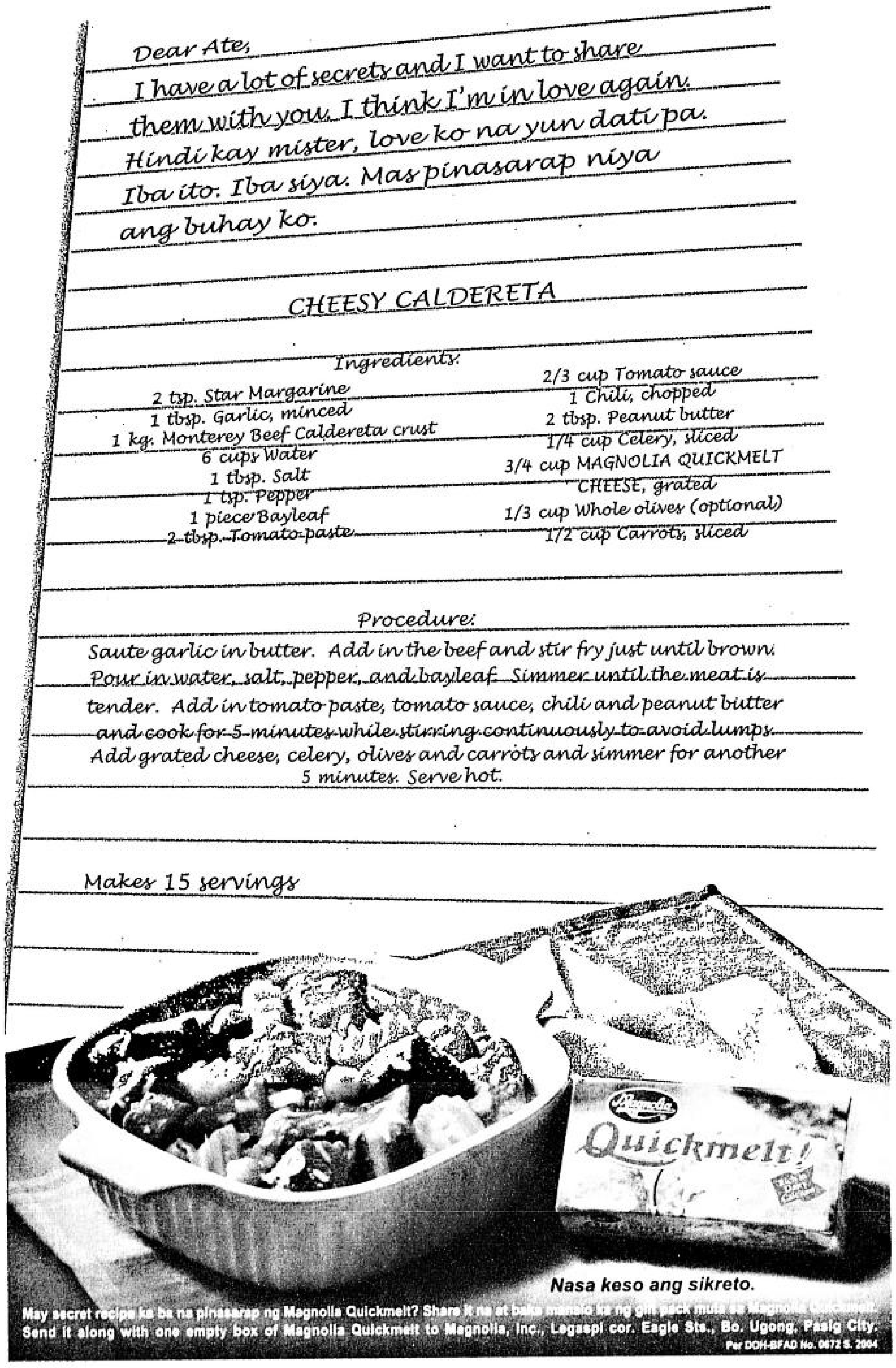
TO say that Filipinos are karaoke fans is a total understatement. Heck, we invented the contraption, didn't we?

And if in the past couple of years, we've been enjoying karaoke at home rather than on a night out, things are changing, thanks to a swanky karaoke bar/restaurant/family entertainment center located in Greenbelt 3 called Red Box Karaoke.

A Hong Kong franchise that started under the name "California Red," Red Box has changed the way Asians do karaoke. There are Red Boxes in Hong Kong, Malaysia and now the Philippines under partners Walden Chu and Paolo del Rosario.

A posh two-story structure consisting of 41 private rooms that can fit anywhere from two to 80 people, Red Box is on a mission to totally revamp the whole karaoke experience by injecting other favorite pastimes of Filipinos into it, like eating, drinking and playing billiards (two rooms contain pool ta-

RED/ H2



Dear Ate,
I have a lot of secrets and I want to share
them with you. I think I'm in love again.
Hindi kay mister, love ko na yun dati pa.
Iba ito. Iba siya. Mas pinasarap niya
ang buhay ko.

CHEESY CALDERETA

Ingredients:

2 tsp. Star Margarine
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
1 kg. Monterey Beef Caldereta crust
6 cups Water
1 tbsp. Salt
1 tsp. Pepper
1 piece Bayleaf
2 tbsp. Tomato paste
2/3 cup Tomato sauce
1 Chili, chopped
2 tbsp. Peanut butter
1/4 cup Celery, sliced
3/4 cup MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE, grated
1/3 cup Whole olives (optional)
1/2 cup Carrots, sliced

Procedure:

Saute garlic in butter. Add in the beef and stir fry just until brown. Pour in water, salt, pepper, and bayleaf. Simmer until the meat is tender. Add in tomato paste, tomato sauce, chili and peanut butter and cook for 5 minutes while stirring continuously to avoid lumps. Add grated cheese, celery, olives and carrots and simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve hot.

Makes 15 servings

Nasa keso ang sikreto.

May secret recipe ka ba na pinasarap ng Magnolia Quickmelt? Share it na at baka manalo ka ng gift pack mula sa Magnolia Quickmelt. Send it along with one empty box of Magnolia Quickmelt to Magnolia, Inc., Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.
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Mesolipo FAQ's

What is Mesolipo?

Mesolipo is the latest technique from Paris. It is a non-surgical treatment that dissolves fat.

How does Mesolipo work?

The fat is dissolved by a customized mixture of natural plant extracts and vitamins placed just millimeters under the skin.

Which part of the body would benefit from Mesolipo?

While any area of the body can be treated, it works best on areas with small to moderate accumulations of fat. Liposuction is still the recommended treatment for areas with thick pads of fat.

What should a patient expect after the procedure?

There may be slight bruising, swelling and tenderness after the procedure. However, a patient would still be able to go to work and to exercise.

How many treatments are needed?

Since everyone responds to Mesolipo differently, anywhere from two to eight sessions are needed.

How frequent should Mesolipo be done?

One session should be done every two weeks.

Are all Mesotherapy treatments the same?

The results achieved are totally dependent on the quality of the ingredients used in the solutions and the expertise of the physician.

"Mesolipo truly works."
-Zsa Zsa Padilla
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AVRIL LAVIGNE

Red hot sing-out nights

From page H1

bles).

There is no doubt that Red Box has broken the norm and raised the standards of conventional karaoke. Says Chu, "The four basic attributes of enjoyment in Filipino culture are eating, drinking, socializing and singing. We feel that we have upgraded or have enhanced the Filipino lifestyle in each enjoyment category."

Nowadays it's cool to say "We're going out for some karaoke," so long as your destination is Red Box.

No ordinary karaoke joint, Red Box is like a restaurant, with an all-you-can-eat buffet (for dinner, Sundays to Thursdays) and an all-day menu of sumptuous meals. It's also like a bar because it has an extensive range of alcoholic beverages, from trusty beers to flavorful martinis. It's even like a club where you can party and dance till the wee hours, but even better because you're in a private room with your friends and you get to be the DJ as you pick the tunes or perform them yourself!

At Red Box even the most reluctant singers will forget about their cares and catch themselves wrestling over the microphone. After all, how can anyone resist singing her all-time favorite songs, especially since Red Box is sure to have them in its 30,000 (and growing) song database?

Imagine hits of the past decades, old classics by Frank Sinatra and Basil Valdez, essential OPM from Eraserheads to the Sex Bomb Girls, all under one roof. Constantly expanding, it surprises you with the latest from Ashlee Simpson and Christian Bautista in their selection. They even have different versions of one song, so if you'd rather sing Britney Spears' take on "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" over the original Rolling Stones' (although why anyone would must be one of the sorrowful mysteries), you've come to the right place.

Their music selection is so superior that they have the most extensive, updated collection of Chinese songs in Mandarin, Cantonese, even Taiwanese, Japanese and Korean songs.

They also carry a long list of original music videos; it's like MTV in the palm of your hand. Get inspiration for your own "concert" by watching Michael Jackson moonwalk, or live performances of Beyonce or Santana.

While their busiest hours are after dinner, more folks are turning up during meal times. And why not? The food menu boasts of a wide variety of savory, filling dishes prepared by highly trained chefs in a kitchen that would put most restaurants to shame. Their traditional Filipino menu is excellent, particularly the Grilled Tuna Belly, which is perfect with rice and a bottle of beer. Other must-tries are Hungarian Sausage, Beef Salpicao and Gambas. As for alchohol, the Lychee Martini makes for a smooth drink that'll have you singing like Whitney and Mariah.

But real Red Box addicts will tell you that the best time to come in is at noon because that's when you can use any room in the house for three hours free of charge, even the ones with billiard tables and the largest TVs if they haven't been reserved, by simply ordering a set lunch meal at P139 (per person).

"We're the first karaoke to open for lunch," says Del Rosario. Power lunches will never be the same again. Holding staff or client meetings at Red Box, with its posh design and ambience, is the height of cool.

"Part of the experience is really the way the place looks. We take pride in the design," says Chu. With interiors designed by renowned Almario sisters Ivy and Cynthia, the place exudes modern elegance with a harmonious interplay of bright lights, geometric shapes and minimalist patterns. At the same time, ample attention was given to functionality, with color-coordinated zones and lit acrylic signs on the floor so you'll never get lost inside.

Security is nothing to worry about, as they make use of CCTV (closed circuit television) to monitor the public areas. Every room features adjustable lights and air-conditioning, and phones so you'll never have to go out to order anything.

You can even watch UAAP at Red Box. View the games on a wide-screen TV and cheer your team onto victory in the privacy of your own room in the company of your buddies.

The list of things to do at Red Box is endless. You'd be crazy not to become a member, specially since membership is free, with special member privileges thrown in for the whole of September.

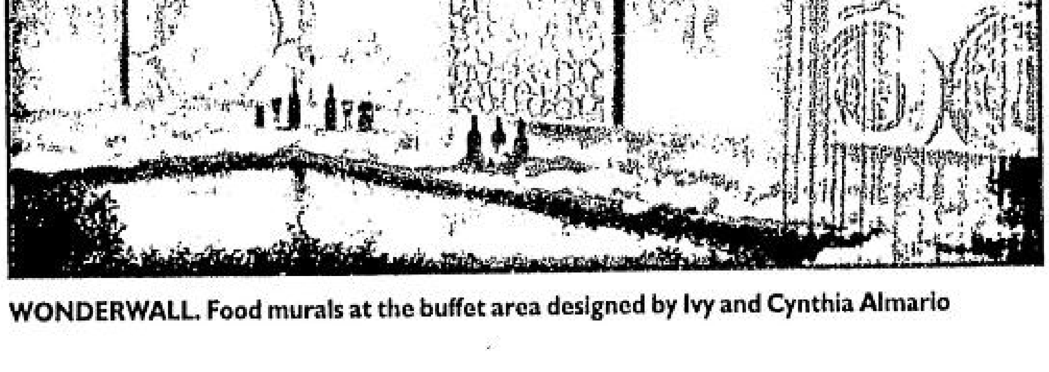
Red Box, located at 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City, is open daily from 12 noon to 3 a.m. Call 7576188.

AWIT NG BARKADA. College friends reunite for a fun night of karaoke.

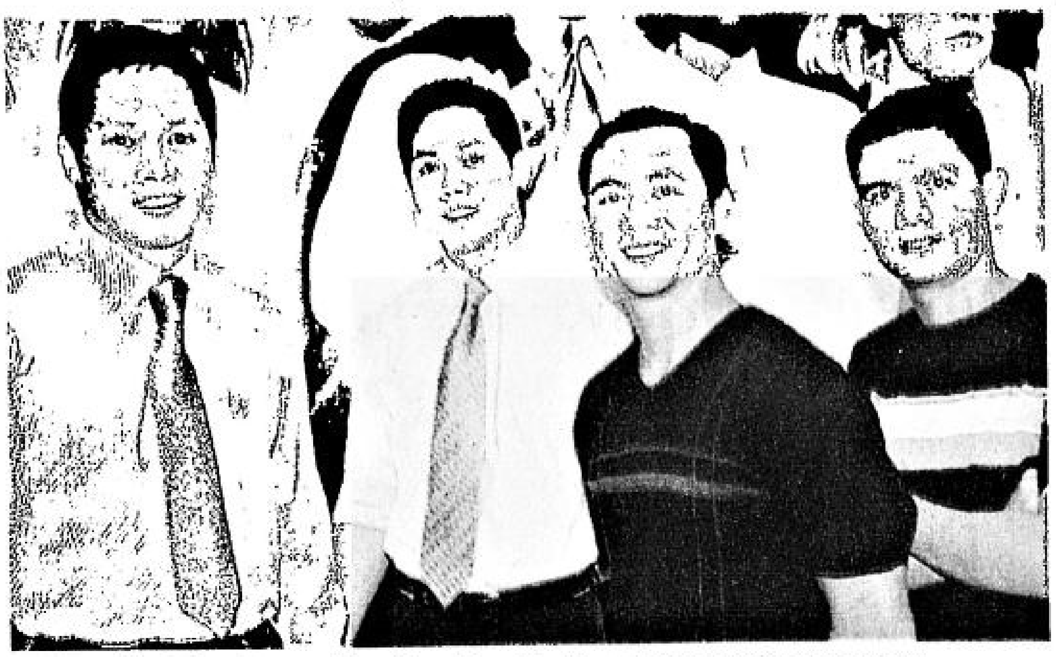
FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD. Choose from (above) Grilled Chicken Steak or (below) Beef Yakiniku inclusive of side dishes for only P139.

JUST THE TWO OF US. Pazzy Navarro and Kenji Marquez have a penchant for George Michael and Whitney Houston songs.

SOUL KITCHEN. Its size would put some restaurants to shame.



WONDERWALL. Food murals at the buffet area designed by Ivy and Cynthia Almario



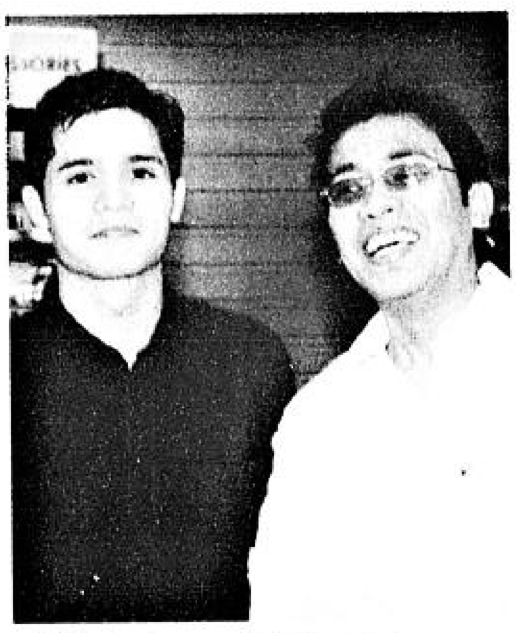
TWIN pediatricians Ome and Aye Nuguid and brothers Anton and Angelo Baretto

DENNIS Valdes and Joey Carpo

CITO Beltran and Tessa Valdes

JOYCE Jimenez and Murli Menon

New style destination for men



COGIE Domingo and Joji Dingcong

MEN'S World, the first boutique in the country to cater to men, recently opened at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center. The event was hosted by Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Mike Toledo, with drinks provided by San Miguel Corp.

TV host Cito Beltran and steel tycoon Edgar Lee modeled Executive Class suits, while champion racer Angelo Barreto was in sporty adventure gear, and columnist Ipe Cruz in casual wear.

Other men who modeled included interior designer Anton Barreto, models Paolo Paraiso, Kenji Marquez, David Costalles and Dim Castillos, twin pediatricians Aye and Ome Nuguid, and debonair actor Albert Martinez.

Also seen at the launch were talented actors Christopher de Leon, Tirso Cruz III, Ricky Davao and Cogie Domingo; businessmen Jaime Ayala, Hans Sy, Tony Leviste and Anton Gonzales; and photographer Xander Angeles. The beauties were represented by Joyce Jimenez and Liezl Martinez, among many others.

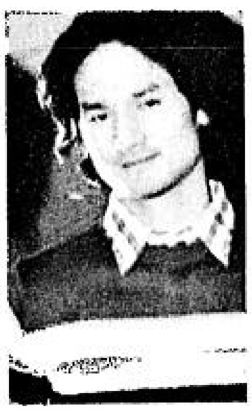
The Men's World team is composed of Lal Gopwani, GM of Branded Lifestyle Inc. and Madison Retailers Inc.; Murli Menon, GM of Newtrends International Corp.; Avinash Uttamchandani, retail director of Watch N See; Sanju Khemlani, sales director of Timex and Devi Leaño, sales director of Ray-Ban.

The brands available at Men's World include the American flagship brand Van Heusen and the sporty Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club; suave Italian brands Valentino Rudy, Roberta di Camerino and Luigi Batani; Parisian staples Ungaro and Carven Paris; and elegant British names like Austin Reed, Jaguar and John Langford of London.

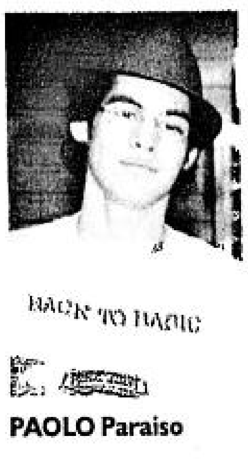
Accessories like Ray-Ban, Killer Loop, Nike Vision, Polo Sport, Gucci, Emporio Armani, Giorgio Armani and Ralph Lauren are among the brands available at the boutique. Timepieces include Giordano, Timex, Titan, Timberiand, Amitron, Axcent and Carrera Watches. Fine pens from Cross are also available.

MR. BOONNAM, chair of Boonsiri Int'l Co. Ltd. Thailand, Branded Lifestyle Inc. general manager Lal Gopwani and Ms Boonnamsup

MIKE Toledo



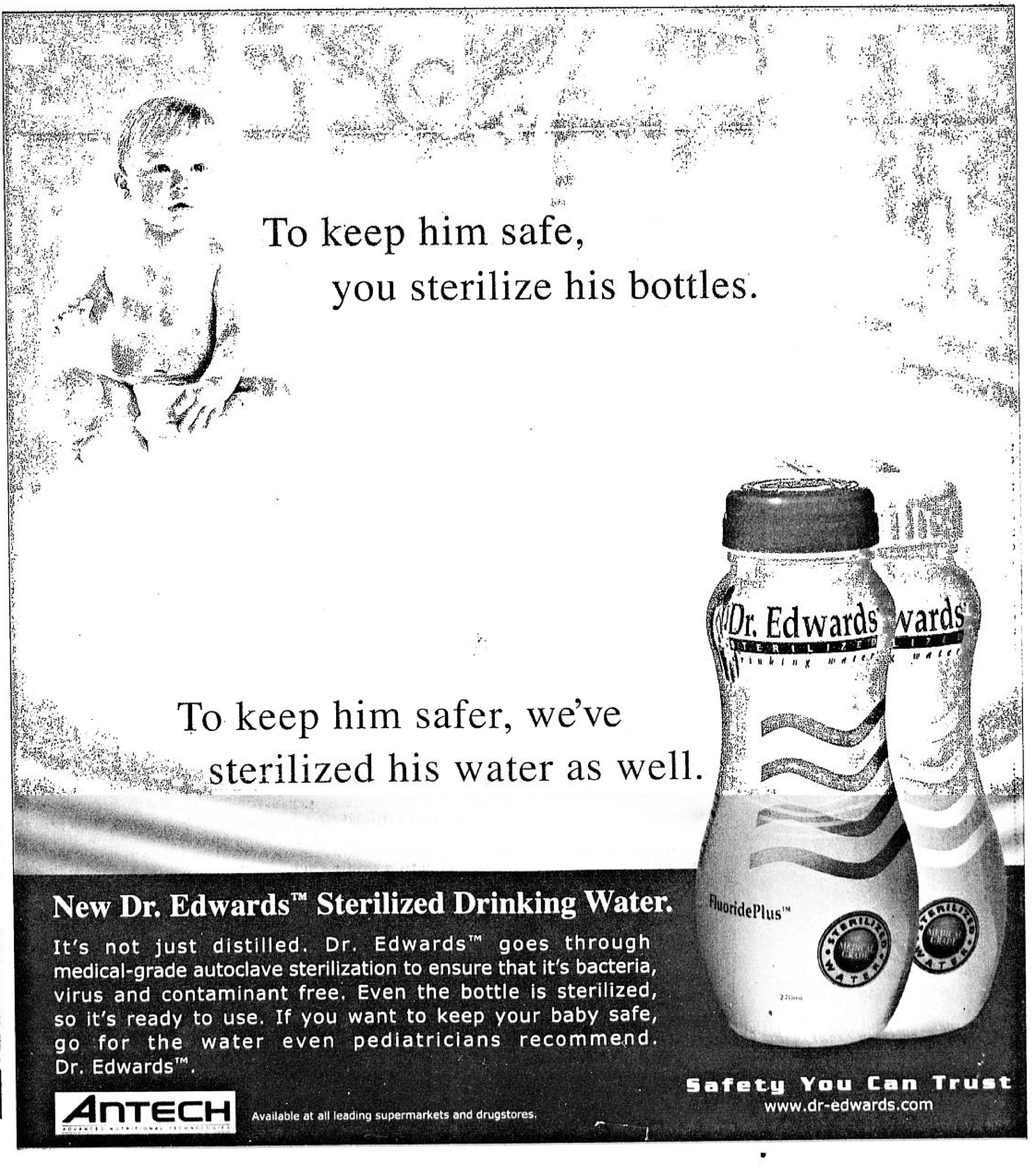
KENJI Marquez



PAOLO Paraiso

IPE Cruz

TIRSO Cruz



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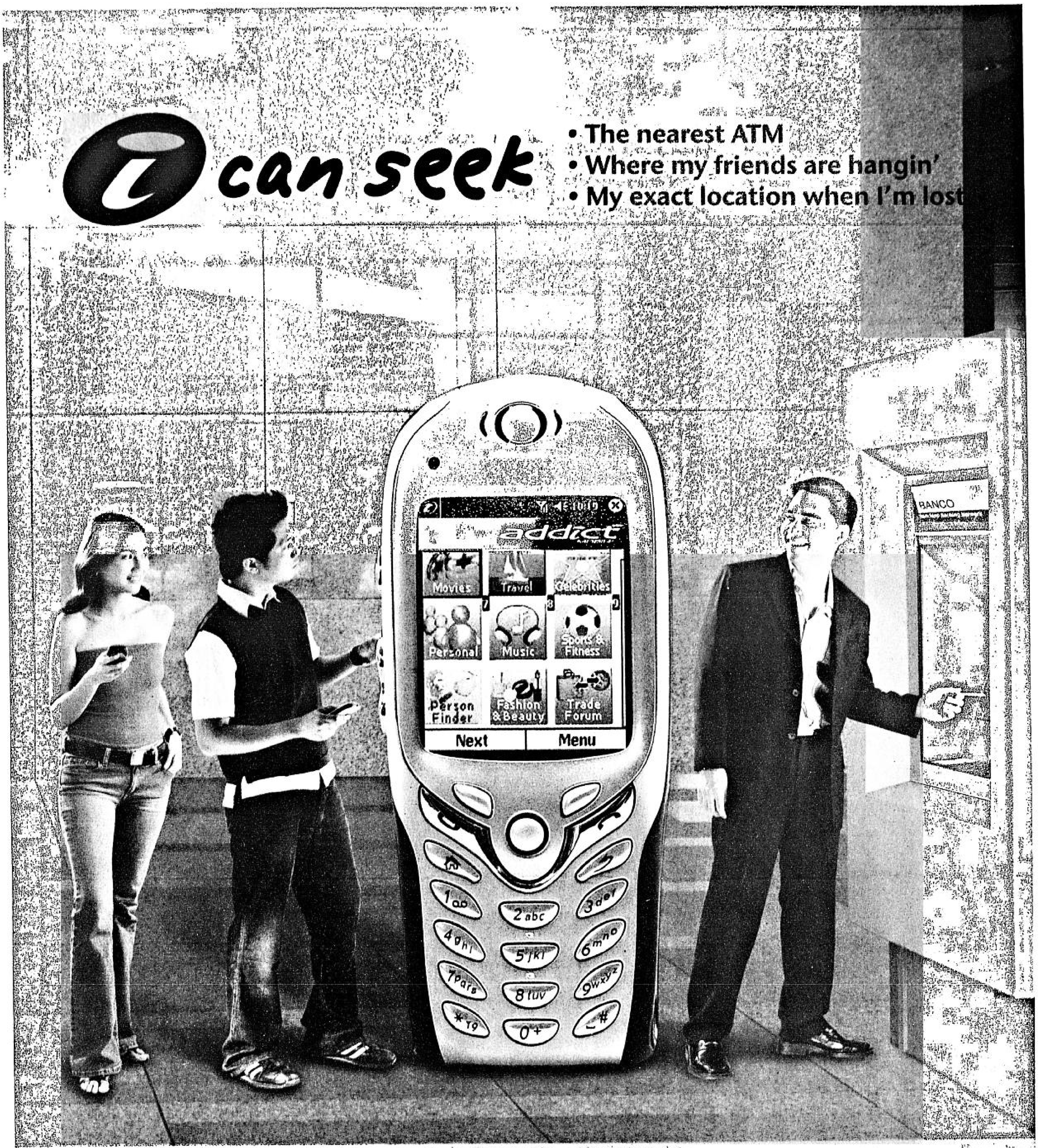

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2004

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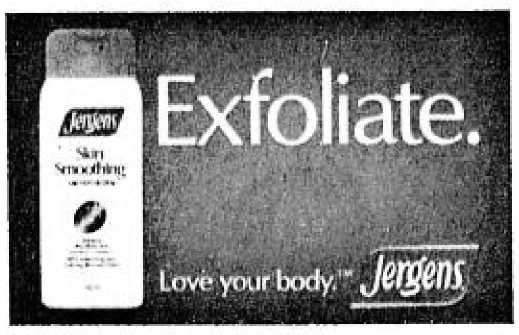
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1. ACE photographer couple Bien and Remy Bautista; 2. Sister act. Lita Puyat and Marivic Limcaoco; 3. Nokia girl Luanne Erni and Just Shop girl Jenni Epperson; 4. Top lensman Wig Tysmans with pretty Angel Jacob; 5. Famous mom and son—Dr. Vicky Belo and director Quark Henares; 6. Artsy photographer Neil Oshima with wife Susan; 7. Abbygale Arenas and son with Joyce Jimenez and Raymond Isaac; 8. Nokia GM Parikshit Bhasin and wife Jini with me in between

Looking for Mr. Right Phone

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MY life was shattered last week when a virus infected my Nokia 6600 mobile phone via Bluetooth (my advice: keep this feature off). This terrible mishap caused me days without use of my phone, so I was unable to send any text jokes. I text an average of 200 jokes a day, and my friends send a steady sup-

LOOKING/12

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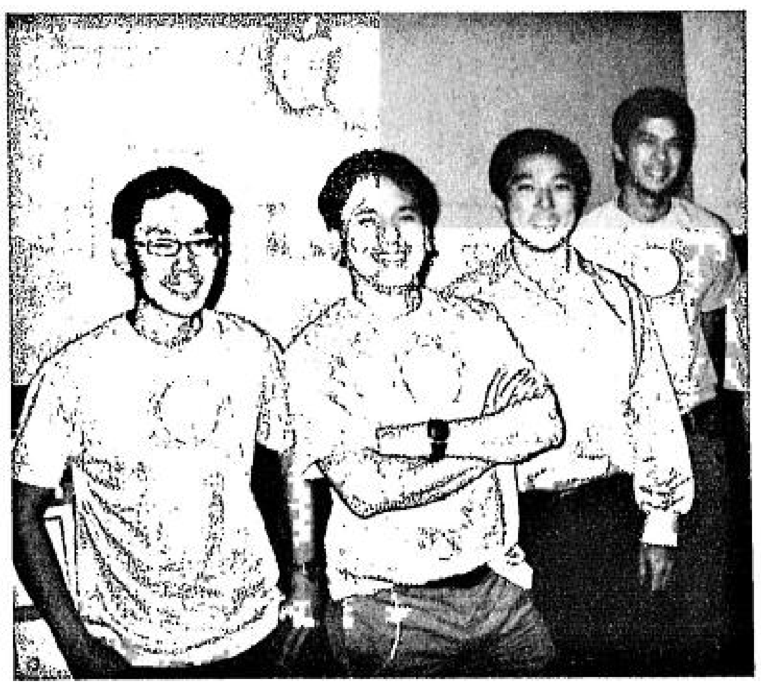
1. MAKATI Garden movers, PLDT boss Manny Pangilinan and Luisa Perez-Rubio; 2. Generous friends—Andres Soriano III and PDI's Marixi Prieto; 3. Sonia Garcia of Sonia's Garden with Marilou Laurena; 4. Carlos Perez-Rubio and Assumption batchmate Gina Roxas; 5. Baby Paterno and Ging de los Reyes of Flower Farm



THE APPLE and Microwarehouse people. EY Yeo, Elbert Cuenca, Jun Villanueva and Manu Sandejas at the iPod launch

Looking for Mr. Right Phone

From page I1

ply of new ones. Even in the virtual world, I am a cyber social butterfly.

These new phones are so advanced that they are like laptops, which unfortunately means they too are susceptible to computer viruses. Maybe this is a new scheme the phone companies have devised to make sure consumers upgrade their phones regularly.

Phones feature so many styles and innovations, shopping for a new mobile phone is like choosing a boyfriend or husband. Some have better features than others, but you have to compromise on other things too. Would you choose a lover who is great in bed but a lousy dresser, or one who is great with the kids but no passion in the bedroom? Is there no Mr. Right Phone?

But finding the best phone is definitely not as difficult as finding the right man. At least with the phone, the features are clearly enumerated, and if it breaks down, you can have it serviced or just throw it away and upgrade to a new one. When I got my phone as a Christmas gift, I had withdrawal symptoms from using the old, familiar one. But now, I can't imagine my life without this new unit.

Just when I thought mobile phones have fully evolved, they come up with the Nokia 7610. Packed with pioneering phone technology and photographic features such as a one-megapixel camera and 10-minute video recording capability, this is truly the über-phone, head and shoulders above the rest of the lads.

Photo exhibit

To showcase these features, a fashionably chic exhibit of 12 photographers and film directors was held in Greenbelt 3. I actually arrived early at the Circle of 12, which gave me time to pass by wonderful Firma Makati to indulge in some much-needed shopping therapy. I had done my charitable deed for the day earlier at the Makati Garden Club fellowship (to launch the 10th Festival of Trees). My wacky ideas were picked to bring some fresh blood into the Garden Club's big charity event this coming November. Mark your calendars, it will be in Casablanca style.

Aside from the usual photo gallery by top lens professionals, all abandoning their Nikons and Canons and using the Nokia 7610, there were three film directors who did a 10-minute video. Young and talented **Quark Henares**, who is becoming famous on his own terms (his parents are Dr. **Vicky Belo** and **Atom Henares**), did a video of his girlfriend. (And no, it is not one of those "scandal films.") Now, it is easier to have your three minutes of fame just by producing your own Nokia phone video.

I had a brief chat with Nokia Country GM **Parikshit Bhasin** and he told me that his wife was just talking about my article last week, in which I wrote about my kids complaining about my night job. That evening, they saw how that complaint was valid as I was unable to be home early enough to tuck the kids in.

Applause was loudest for creative photog **Lita Puyat**, thanks to her family and friends who came in full force. Lita did our family photo early last month when my brother, Andrew, was in town. She did wonders with her digital camera and was able to digitally insert some members into the photo. I could have asked her to include **Beyonce** as my son's girlfriend.

Also in the exhibit was expert lens man **Bien Bautista**, who did my pictorial for Urban Spa and Smart Gold. It was fun to do a tub scene with just rose petals covering my twin peaks. There was not much to cover, but I guess with a stricter board of censors, better to be safe than sorry. The main objective is to encourage new subscribers to the Smart Gold plan and avail of free aromatherapy massage.

Second anniversary

Urban Spa celebrated its second anniversary with a tie-up with i.woman club and HBO, featuring the sixth and final season of "Sex and the City." I hosted the event, trying to be a fair moderator to the five guest speakers. It was fun, but I think I spoke more than the five combined. Celebrity athlete and dad **Paolo Abrera** was the sole gentleman among the accomplished women. An exceptional mix, from food experts to TV personalities to a dance professional, kept the talk lively, racy and sexy. I actually learned so much from them, especially from nutritionist **Ginny Marksl** who said that chocolate is an aphrodisiac. No wonder my midnight snacking keeps me up and about at 3 a.m. and very interested in disturbing my sleepyhead husband Dennis.

With my new passion, flamenco, my dancing guru **Ginajane Grey** demonstrated the wonders of dancing with emotion and the benefits of *talbos ng camote*. With the way she looks, the audience had to ask more information about both.

Tetta Ortiz-Matera shared her passion with food, most especially pasta. Happily married to an Italian, she told us about a convention in Europe in support of carbohydrates. With Atkins and South Beach diets so in vogue, it's about time pasta and the rest do a come back!

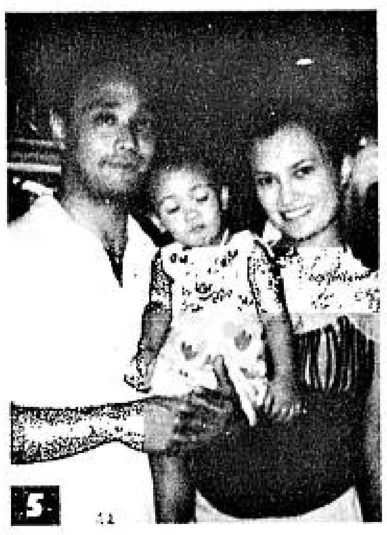
The healthy food host was Trattorria Gourmet, owned by **Ernest Escaler** and known for its delicious salad dressings and pasta dishes. Eating healthy couldn't have been easier. I bought all the dressings and sauces so my cook will get ideas beyond her usual scope of fried chicken and *chop suey*.

New Apple

With technology moving forward for mobile phones, the music gadgets have become just as high-tech. At the press launch of the iPod mini, I was introduced to a whole new Apple wonder, which is this tiny little device that can store up to one thousand songs. Imagine, if you listened non-stop to the mini's big brother, the 40GB iPod, you wouldn't repeat a song for 25 years.

But the big iPod has a problem. It only comes in white! So I am just real happy the iPod mini comes in pink, though I also ordered a green one to match my other outfits so I can look hip while working out. In my quest for a better, healthier and sexier lifestyle, my Olympic style motto is—it's not whether you can or cannot play, it's how you display that counts.

E-mail seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



1. BELLY-DANCING classmate Marianne Zapanta and Emma Pante of Color Me Mine; 2. Sexy talk with Paolo Abrera, Ginny Marksl, Tetta Ortiz-Matera, Ginajane Grey, Daphne Oseña-Paez, Sea Princess and Arlene Torres of Skycable; 3. Pasta lovers—Tetta Ortiz-Matera with Italian husband Giorgio; 4. Urban Spa friends Cricket Tantoco, Elaine Yu, Frances Yu, Tessa Alindogan, Rosan Cruz, Emily Siy and Urban Spa co-owner Irene Ibañez; 5. Family affair—Patrick and Daphne Oseña-Paez with baby Sophia; 6. Trattorria Gourmet's Abet Anido; 7. I.woman club's 'Sex and the City' talk at Urban Spa

Cinema introduces another innovation

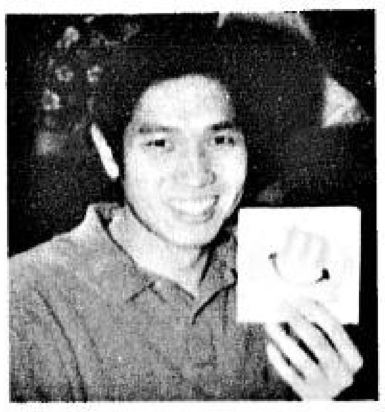
your choice.

M-PASS cardholders Phoemela Barranda, Annette Coronel and Pia Cabrera

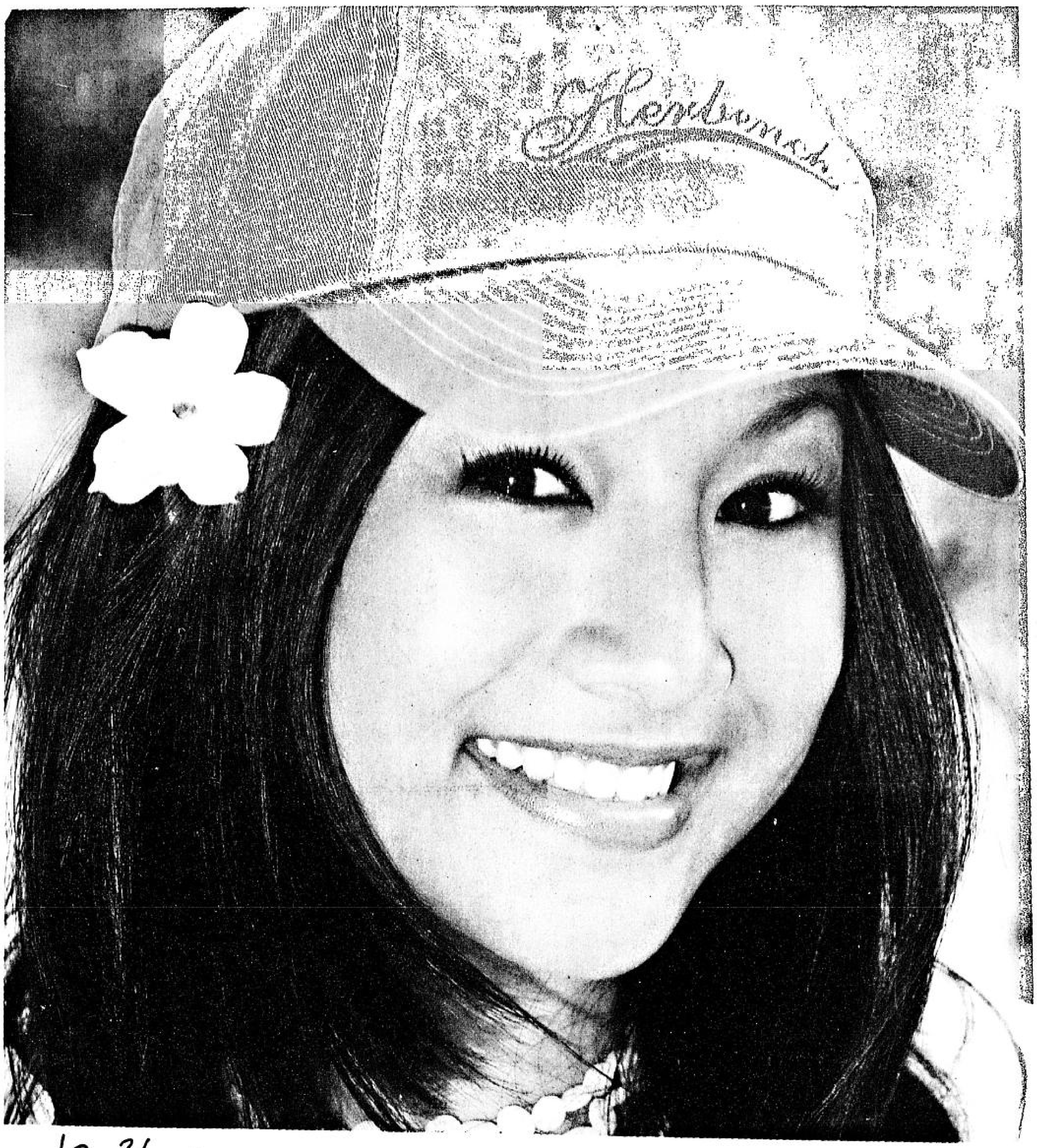
AYALA Cinemas' MyCinema introduces the M-Pass, a prepaid service that allows moviegoers to easily reserve their seats in sureseats.com, then proceed to the cinema just before show time.

Among those who experienced the convenience of the new acquired M-Pass cards were television host and actress Janice de Belen and her kids, Assunta de Rossi and kids Cristina and Carlo Ledesma, Channel V VJ and model Amanda Griffin, underwater photographer Gutsy Tuason, TV host Phoemela Barranda, restaurateur Archie Rodriguez with Bea Valdes, model Pia Cabrera, businessman Raymond Rufino with Anna Palabyab, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Annette Coronel with Tito Manapat, MYX VJ Karel Marquez, Patty Betita with son Emilio, together with Apogee's Albert Almendralejo, Michael Huang, lensman Ronnie Salvacion with model Angel Jacob, actor Ricky Davao and kids, couples Alex and Tina Rodriguez and Ron and Carol George.

PATTY Betita with her M-pass card



LUCKY M-pass winners Anna Palabyab and Mike Huang



10:36 am
Was running late for rehearsals.
Tried to hide from some photographers.
Then somebody said, "Pinoy Idol."
Now that's cool!

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Together, these nutrients help your child achieve superior mental and physical growth for balanced development of both body and mind. With a glass of **Ovaltine Power with Activ8 Power + Zinc** everyday, your child can outperform others.

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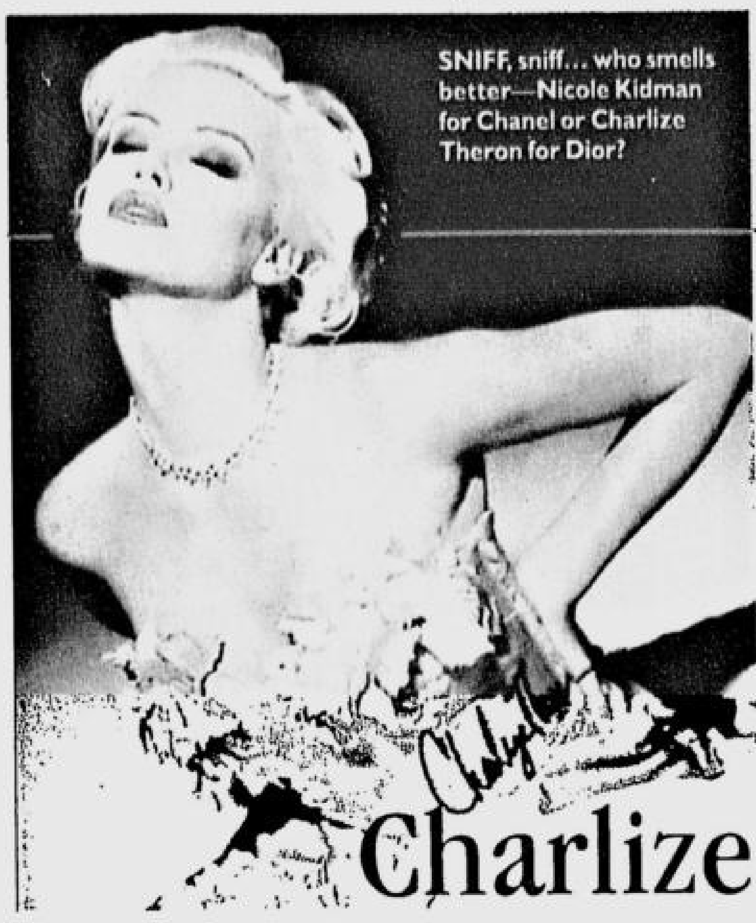

SNIFF, sniff... who smells better—Nicole Kidman for Chanel or Charlize Theron for Dior?

"QUEER Eye for the Straight Guy" goes global. The original guys (above) and the UK version (right)

Charlize Theron is new face of Dior

T'NT Trends & Trendings

Anton San Diego

MUST-GO-TO restaurant—Set to open tomorrow is M, at the Ayala Museum. It has all the elements of imminent success: great food, world-class décor and an unrivaled picturesque view of the Greenbelt Park (one of the most coveted settings in the metropolis).

M is adjacent to the new Ayala Museum and is owned and managed by **Anabelle Wisniewski** and her son, **Mark.** She asked designers **Budji Layug** and **Royal Pineda** to work on the interiors, and the result is a restaurant/bar/café that highlights Filipino creativity and talent.

What about the food? **Missy Ayala, Inno Sotto**, in-laws **Sofia Elizalde, Lizzie** and **Kit Zobel** and I were invited to their tasting menu and left there more than satisfied.

The menu is Asian at heart and Filipino in flair. You will be amazed by the creative ways they have come up with dishes that are refreshing, sumptuous and satisfying.

Congratulations to their talented chef, **Sau del Rosario**, who, after his stint at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore, decided to come back to Manila.

Like art, M is in constant transition, not settling for less. After two weeks they will serve breakfast; an outside bar, brunch and Asian high tea (think: *ensaymada*, hot chocolate, *salabat* tea, etc.).

It's the perfect meeting place, where one can be comfortable alone or with a group of friends or have meetings. This one's something to watch out for, and I give it 5 out of 5 TNT marks for the next in place to see and be seen in.

Take a bow—Bows are back! Bow ties in all their forms, as a belt on a blouse or dress, choker or bracelet, are a hot look. Just take a look at the ad campaigns of Louis Vuitton, Ungaro and Marc Jacobs. Fashion pundits are saying it's a mixture of schoolgirl charm, '70s secretary look and the romantic style.

I saw a nice pair of pants at Tyler that had a light-blue silk bow as a belt. Looking for ways to update your wardrobe for the last quarter, here's the perfect place to start.

Sniff, sniff... who smells better—Nicole Kidman or Charlize Theron? These two award-winning actresses and style icons are going head to head as the faces of the Chanel No. 5 and J' Adore Dior ad campaigns. Both campaigns are coming out later this year.

I was able to take a peek at the Chanel ad campaigns, with Nicole Kidman playing the Hollywood glamour actress to the hilt. To say it was spectacular is an understatement.

Nicole teamed up with her director in "Moulin Rouge," **Baz Luhrmann**, and the results are spectacular, spectacular! There's a cloud of secrecy that surrounds the campaign so that when it is presented in October this year, it will make Chanel No. 5 *the* perfume.

And what about Charlize? I am sure Dior will not let her be eclipsed. She was reportedly paid a hefty $3 million for the campaign. She will be sure to bring out a stellar performance as well.

"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" goes global. It has become everyone's favorite TV habit (shown on ETC on Mondays, 8 p.m.), "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" has become such a phenomenon not only in the US but all over the world (it's shown in 96 countries). It has become so popular that it has spawned different incarnations. There are now versions in the UK, Denmark and Sweden. Ten more countries are in the planning stage: Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Estonia, Lithuania, Norway, Spain, Hungary and Italy.

It's time to capitalize on this phenomenon (stop having copycat singing contests) and have their own version here. Here are my bets. For grooming—**Jing Monis**; fashion—**Rajo Laurel**; culture—**John Silva**; design—**Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toldedo**; and food and drink—hmmm, this one I have to get back on, I don't want to "out" anyone.

And for the last word... the good ol' junk food days! Over dessert (think: the

CHARLIZE J2

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FSD happens when the moisture balance of the skin is disrupted due to improper skin care and lifestyle habits. This can happen to any woman at any age. Here are some of the causes of FSD.

Improper skin care habits:
- Frequent use of harsh soaps and scrubs
- Washing with hot water
- Use of strong astringents

Lifestyle habits:
- Smoking
- Drinking too much alcohol
- Stress and lack of sleep
- Frequent sun exposure
- Too much exposure to air conditioning

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For best results, use with Céleteque™ Facial Wash with NMF.

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Facial Moisturizer
100 mL

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Facial Moisturizer

THE RIGHT WAY TO MOISTURIZE YOUR SKIN.

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Charlize Theron is new face of Dior

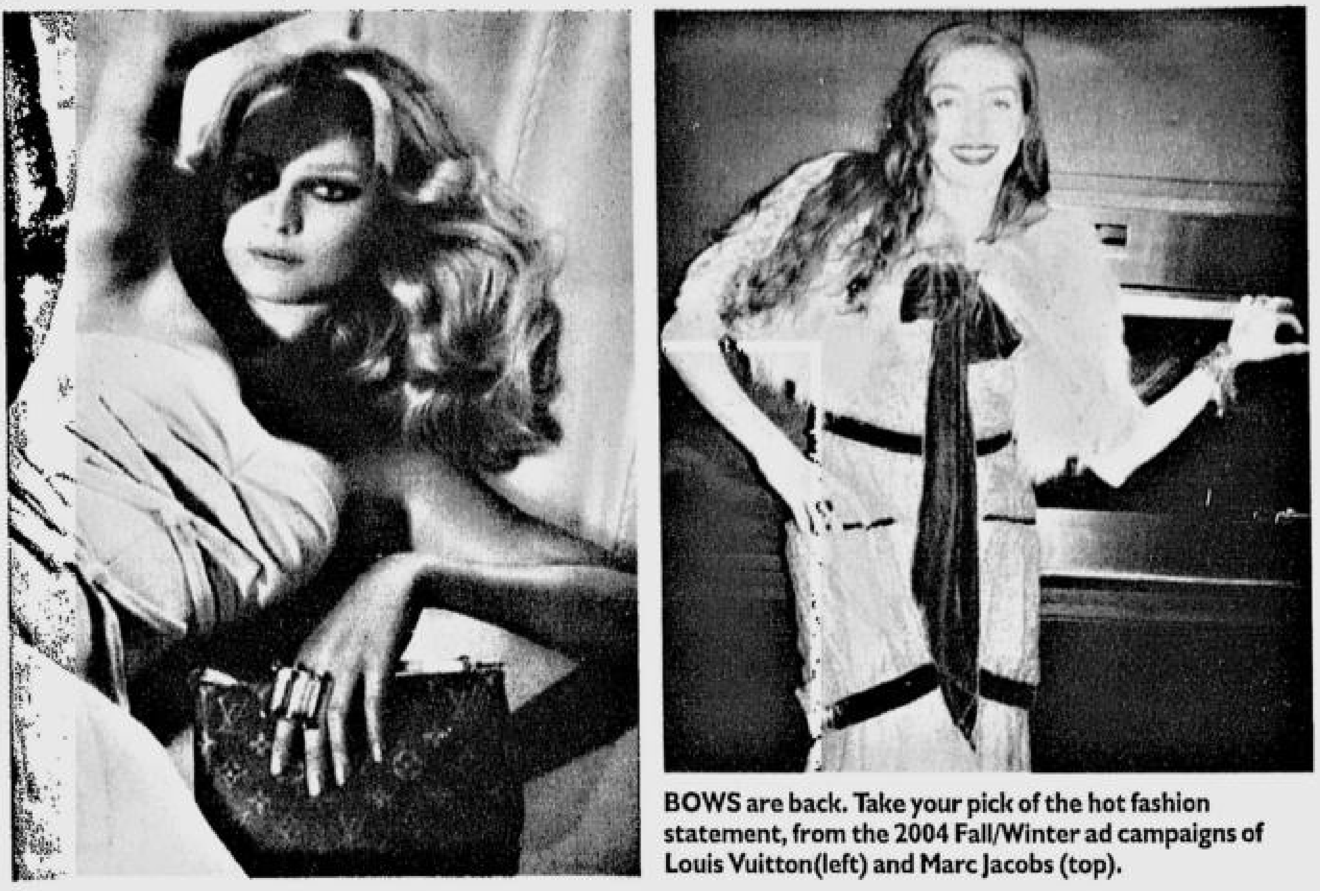
From page J1

sinfully delicious choc-nut ice cream) with **Joyce Orena** and **Teng Roma** at Uva, the topic of conversation shifted to childhood "junk food." When I was living in my grandmother's house in San Juan, there used to be a *sari-sari* store around the corner that we would run to and buy our favorite artery-clogging, sugar-rush junk food.

Before there were not as many choices as today, and even if that were the case, I still harbor the taste and probably the nostalgia of those years. If you go to any supermarket today, the choices can be dizzying. And with the importance of dieting, good health and even technology, we have 'sanitized' (think fat-free, less oil, less calories) junk food.

But sometimes you miss the real deadly ones, those that you can lick the oil from the bag.

Here's a rundown of the food that we miss and some of you may remember: Jojo's and Sugus candies, the original Jack and Jill potato chips and pretzels, Texas and Tarzan bubble gum (they were then so low-tech they actually got stuck in your mouth and everywhere else), Haw flakes, Choco mallows, Goya chocolates, Lipps candy (they contained so much preservatives they actually make your lips and tongue red; my sister used to eat it so she could use it as a lipstick) and the all-important and infamous Cow label. You can eat it *au naturel* or with rice. And if the *yaya* or my mom was not looking, we added it to the *sinigang* or *pandesal*. Simply the best. Those were the good ol' "junk food" days!



BOWS are back. Take your pick of the hot fashion statement, from the 2004 Fall/Winter ad campaigns of Louis Vuitton(left) and Marc Jacobs (top).

The hottest stars come together in the HIPPEST BAZAAR ever to grace the Metro.

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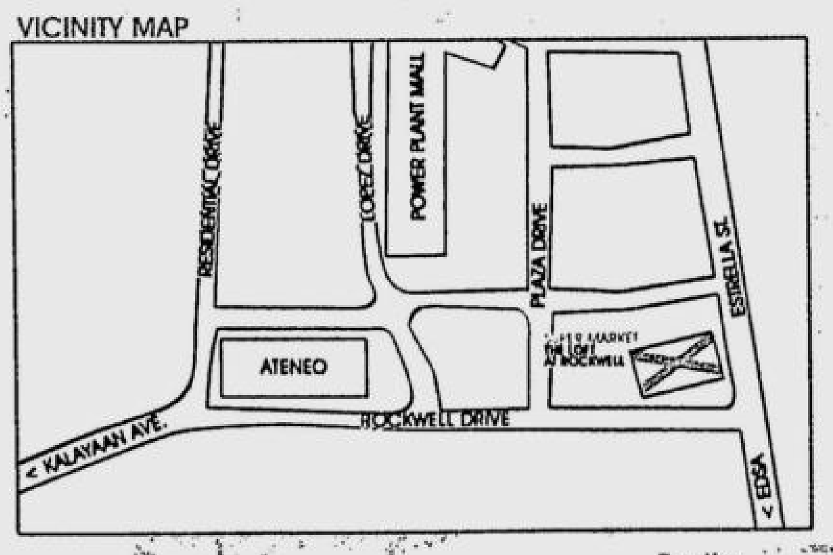
VICINITY MAP



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Three women's journey to truth

IN THE "TRUTH" issue of Me magazine, three women from different walks of life share their journeys to finding the truth about themselves.

For Sr. Harriet Hormillosa, a midlife crisis that gave her feelings of inadequacy which resulted in a near-death experience paved the way to finding a newfound leash on life.

With the help of people from Ateneo's Center for Family Ministries (Cefame), she was able to trace the root cause of her negative attitude toward life—the high expectations her family imposed on her even as a child.

After healing her childhood wounds, Sister Harriet is now empowered and ready to spread her wings. Through the Reintegration for Care and Wholeness Foundation she founded in May 2000, she now helps those who come to her in search of inner peace and healing.

(CLOCKWISE from top left) Pulitzer prize-winning photographer Cheryl Diaz Meyer, Sr. Harriet Hormillosa and Jo Sabio

Studying law has always been Jo Sabio's first love. Graduating with honors from the Ateneo School of Law in 2000, Jo further honed her skills by working as an associate in a law firm. However, there was always a nagging voice at the back of her mind telling her that something was amiss.

When her former coach from the Ateneo Jessup team asked her to coach the team of 2004, she knew right away that it was what she had wanted to do. Her efforts helped the team win the championship, and Jo found a new career—mentoring.

No longer in the corporate world, she now teaches at the Ateneo School of Law and is also a staff under Supreme Court Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno.

Through the lens of her camera, photojournalist Cheryl Diaz Meyer is able to inform people about what's happening in other parts of the world. Fueled by her curiosity and desire to show the truth, Meyer's photos help expand people's horizons and allow them to make wise decisions about themselves in relation to others.

Read more about these women and be inspired and empowered to seek the truth in your own life.

Me magazine, another publication of Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. (MMPI)/The Mega Group, is now available in all leading book stores and newsstands nationwide. Call 6312859.

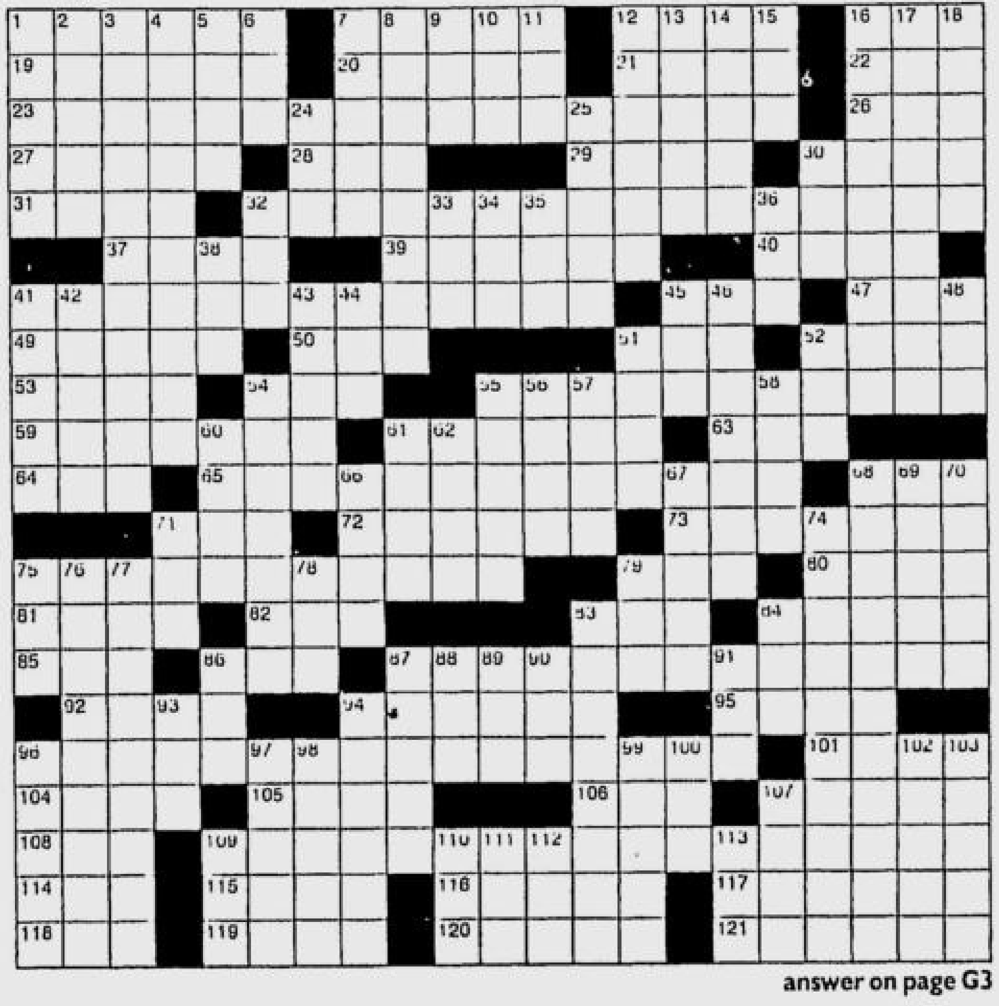
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

EL LOCO!

ACROSS
1 Earlier
7 Sends unwanted e-mail to
12 Shore up
16 Pigged out
19 Ruler's roost
20 Dehydrate
21 City east of Wichita
22 Film critic Reed
23 Lifting up a "Messiah" score?
26 Trash collector with a tail
27 Compelled
28 Reel go-with
29 Nero's unlucky number?
30 Singer Ono
31 With 39 Across, Robin Hood's girl
32 Embroidery yarn sold on an infomercial?
37 Reebok rival
39 See 31 Across
40 Pub projectile
41 Cost of a barber's service long ago?
45 Abbr. signaling a second afterthought
47 Legendary Giant
49 Add
50 — room (play area)
51 — -ha (uproar)
52 Songwriter Porter
53 See 108 Across
54 Misery
55 Actor Zero's spiritual being?
59 Big 106 Acrosses
61 More minute
63 Zadora of "Butterfly"
64 Joule fraction
65 Soft hue viewed from afar?
68 Capote, to pals
71 Identify, informally
72 Haul in
73 More gossamer
75 Window beam above a major appliance?
79 Shar- —
80 Smell awful
81 Horse hue
82 19th letter
83 20th letter
84 Sheriff's band
85 Total
86 Phys ed
87 Monopoly on calorie-dense foods?
92 FBI guy
94 Subservient hireling
95 Ogden locale
96 Harvesting container in flames?
101 Trial run
104 Telegram
105 Seize, as a hunk of salad
106 Slippery swimmer
107 Boy in Life cereal ads
108 With 53 Across, Ugandan tyrant
109 Singer Richie with no courage?
114 Actor Cariou
115 Actress Skye
116 Photo holder
117 Having distinction
118 Fall behind
119 "No ifs, — or buts!"
120 Boo-boos
121 Minister

DOWN
1 Play, as a banjo
2 Mitchell's Scarlett
3 Starting
4 Dropping sharply
5 Oklahoma city
6 Stimpy's friend
7 Reel part
8 Very widespread
9 Live
10 Hosts, for short
11 "Hush!"
12 Rack-and- —
13 "The Thinker" sculptor
14 — acid (fat product)
15 Churn
16 Food-thickening agent
17 Kitchen whistler
18 Laud
24 Test for college srs.
25 Like some symmetry
30 "Indeed"
32 Jack's inferior?
33 Mini- — (small sweeper)
34 Irritate
35 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
36 Hwys., e.g.
38 Relatives
41 Elbow room
42 Wit
43 "Yuck!"
44 Formerly named
45 "— favor, senor!"
46 City buried in A.D. 79
48 — Aviv
51 That gal's
52 Johnny Reb's org.
54 Chewing gum giant
55 Computer-chip maker
56 Pinches
57 Well-kept
58 Bath additives
60 River of Germany
61 Limelike
62 About
66 Soaks up some sun
67 Chirp
68 Says "I do"
69 Baseball's Pee Wee
70 "Family Matters" nerd
71 Write
74 Proportionate divisions
75 Rx writers
76 General notion
77 Whining
78 Suffix of tenets
79 By means of
83 Became antsy
84 Glib
86 African antelope
87 Wild dog Down Under
88 Leeds loc.
89 Bro, e.g.
90 —'wester (waterproof hat)
91 — -de-sac
93 Honest prez
94 Chops up
96 Chino, e.g.
97 Title for an earl or baron: Abbr.
98 "There's — in sight"
99 Ships' wheels
100 Tarzan portrayer Ron
102 Care for
103 Polk's predecessor
107 Notes between re and sol
109 Carrere of "Wayne's World"
110 Used to be
111 Everyone
112 Baseball stat
113 Slice off



answer on page G3

DR. Sonny and Helen Ong

CONSUL Tony Rufino and Ambassador Jose Zaide

INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto with Ramon and Josie Sy

GERMAN Ambassador Herbert Jess and wife Micheline flank Ambassador Enrique and Letty Syquia. PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

A whirl of farewell parties

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

DESPITE the prevailing gloom and doom hovering over our heads—what with zooming oil prices—it's still nonstop socializing with wine-tasting dinners and farewell parties for dear friends, and thank-you receptions for all the farewells.

Ambassador to Malta **Enrique Syquia** and the ever-gracious **Letty** hosted a *despedida* at their residence for that very popular couple, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess**, now no doubt bringing their own brand of musical diplomacy to Kuala Lumpur.

The dinner was chockablock with elegant ladies, including **Beth Day Romulo** and good friend **Paz Yuchengco**, consuls **Mellie Ablaza**, **Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**, Thai Ambassador **Busba Bunnag**, Sra. **Mariana Hubbard** of Mexico, Mme. **Agnes de Kok**, **Nena Casimiro**, **Agnes Huibonhua**, and **Nori Ongsiako**, just to drop a few names.

Charmingly informal

Another of our top hosts, **Dr. Luciano Ong**, with his elegant and enterprising wife, **Helen**, gave a farewell dinner at their art-filled residence for German Ambassador and Mme. Herbert Jess. For this special evening, for a change from the usual formality of sit-down dinners, guests were required to sit on cushions and dine from *dulongs* of bamboo with *sinamay* tablecloths.

There was a frothy sea of elegant ambassadors, such as Ambassador **Renée Veyret** of France and the terminally dapper Brazilian Ambassador **Claudio Lyra**. The ambassadorial ladies were all dressed in their finery, such as Sra. **Sylvie Schuff** of Chile and **Gul Tanghe** of Belgium.

In response to a long list of *despedidas* (you know how we Filipinos are), German Ambassador Herbert and the delightful Micheline hosted their own farewell reception, and they all came, even **Max**. And all dressed in their best, too.

But nothing could beat artist **Manny Baldemor**'s gesture of lending his paintings of a little town in Germany to decorate the now-empty walls of the residence, as the couple had packed everything. The town was, after all, where the Jesses had first met, and it had a special meaning to them.

To drop some more names, there was former President **Fidel Ramos**, as well as such personalities as pianist **Nena Villanueva**, who played a farewell duet with Ambassador Jess plus an encore, I-Bank's **Ramon** and **Josie Sy**, Metrobank's **Chito** and **Ana Sobrepeña**, Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**, **Mita** and **Tony Rufino**, best-dressed **Mellie Ablaza** and business guru **Wash Sycip**, not to mention members of the diplomatic corps, of the business community and others too scintillating to mention.

Passion for wine

Following Robert Mondavi's adage that "wine is passion... warmth of heart and generosity of spirit," **Tita Trillo** invited some friends over to Makati Shangri-La on a wild and wooly night (it was drafty outside the plate-glass windows), to enjoy an evening of good food, music and wine from Mondavi's Private Selection series.

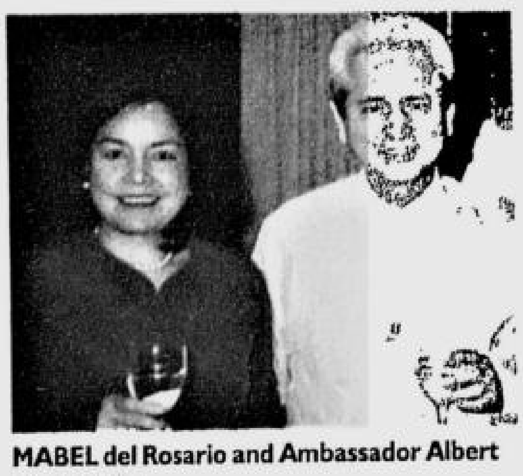
There to join us was **Robert Cook**, director of sales for Asia-Pacific, who gave up the fast-track life in California and has resided in Bangkok fpr the past decade, after deciding that life was meant to be enjoyed.

And enjoy it we did with vastly entertaining dishes such as blackened tuna pastrami with lobster spring rolls and blue crab bisque, with the pièce de résistance being a rack of lamb with wild mushroom and truffle risotto.

Who can resist that haute cuisine complemented by Mondavi's Private Selection of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Merlot that are made from the finest grapes grown in the coastal vineyards of Napa Valley?

Now, about those calories...

EU Ambassador Jan de Kok and Papua New Guinea Ambassador Damien Gamiando



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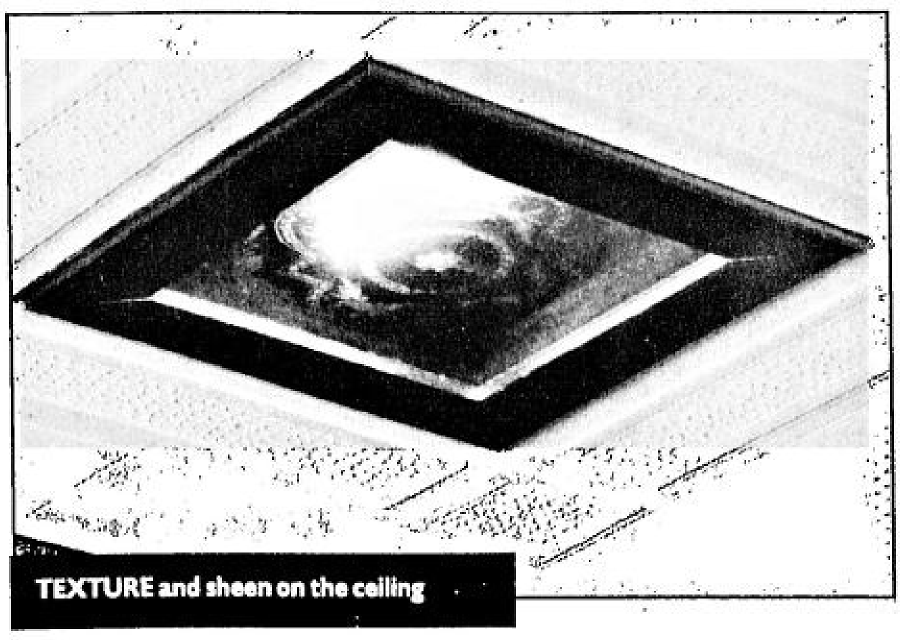
Dream house

Rachy Cuna renovates
his ancestral home
in deference to a dream



TEXTURE and sheen on the ceiling

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

RACHY Cuna's labor of love couldn't have started on a more auspicious date. The top home stylist woke.up on Valentine's Day from a vague dream with a distinct message: If you can do other people's houses, why can't you do your own house?

Since the house Cuna shares with his mother needs no renovation, he assumed that the dream was referring to the family's ancestral home in one of Manila's old districts. The two-story structure, which has touches of Art Deco, was built in the 1930s by his maternal grandparents, the late Jose Zamora and Celestina Boncan.

Although it was Cuna's mother, Pacita, and her siblings who grew up in the house, he has fond memories of it while growing up, as it was the site of countless family gatherings. It survived the passage of time, including the war, but was badly in need of a major makeover.

Pacita's sister, Noemi Zamora, still lives in the house, which Cuna has christened Casa Celestina. The retired school teacher was too frail to oversee any major repair. So Cuna went about it with his usual flair and gusto.

"It was as if my dear *lolo* was talking to me in my dream," says Cuna. "I rushed to the house soon after, and before long, was calling supplier-friends."

Aside from giving him generous discounts, his suppliers delivered the goods on time. This enabled Cuna and his construction team to finish in less than 100 days.

Like most houses of yore, the high-ceilinged structure—with huge parquet flooring and faux marble walls in the spacious living room—is made of sturdy materials. The dining area's machuca tiles have also remained fairly intact.

The series of recessed ceilings, however, could use a fresh coat of paint. Cuna did just that, and upon his brother Ricky's suggestion, incorporated gold accents to add some drama and trendy sheen to what used to be an all-white ceiling.

Apart from having the parquet flooring polished and the major furniture pieces reupholstered from burgundy to celadon green, Cuna had the grimy crystal chandelier in the living room cleaned and restored to its pristine form.

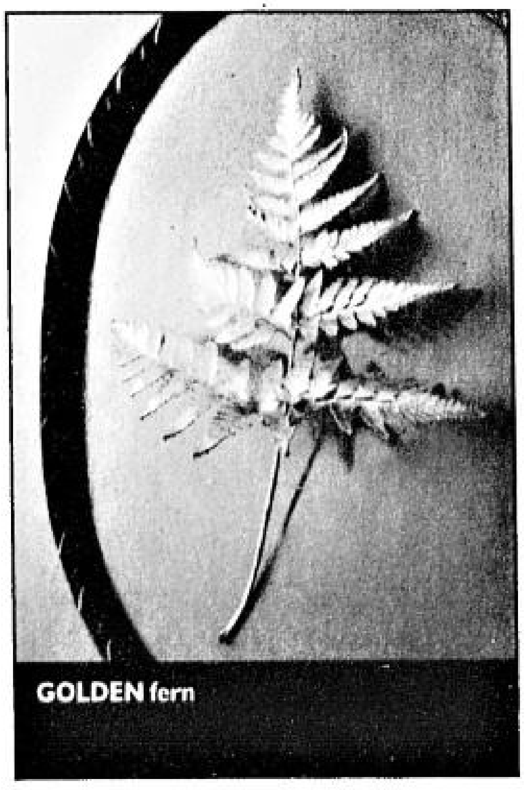
Capiz substitutes

But several ceiling accents made of Murano glass were beyond restoration. Cuna's grandparents bought the pricey pieces during a trip to Europe. As he had no immediate plan of going to Italy, he found cheaper yet eye-catching replacements made of capiz shells and pointed strips of brass that resembled pineapples.

By combining his grandparents' existing stuff with a number of Chinese antiques and contemporary objects from his own collection, Cuna was able to impart an eclectic feel to the entire setup.

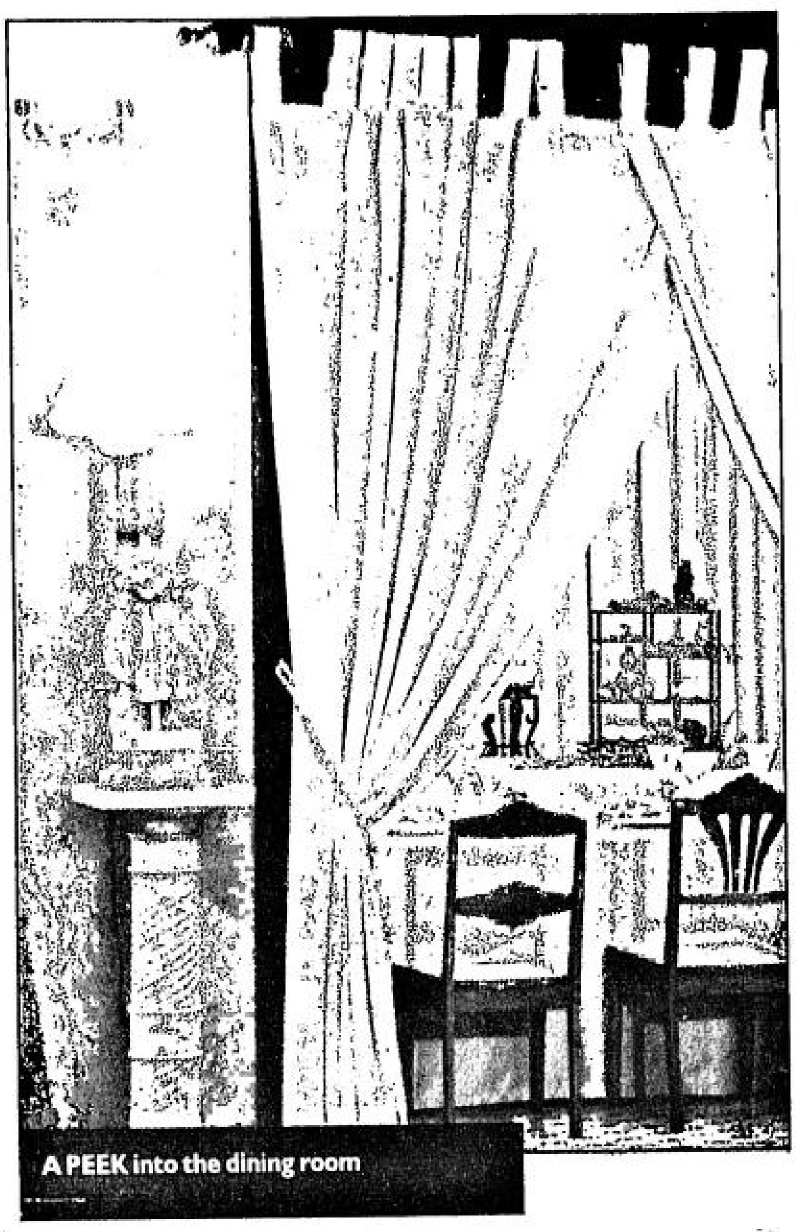
An antique opium bed, which is framed like a tableau between Casa Celestina's two wooden posts, provides a perfect canvas to a Chinese robe with dragon embroidery. Cuna

DREAM/K2

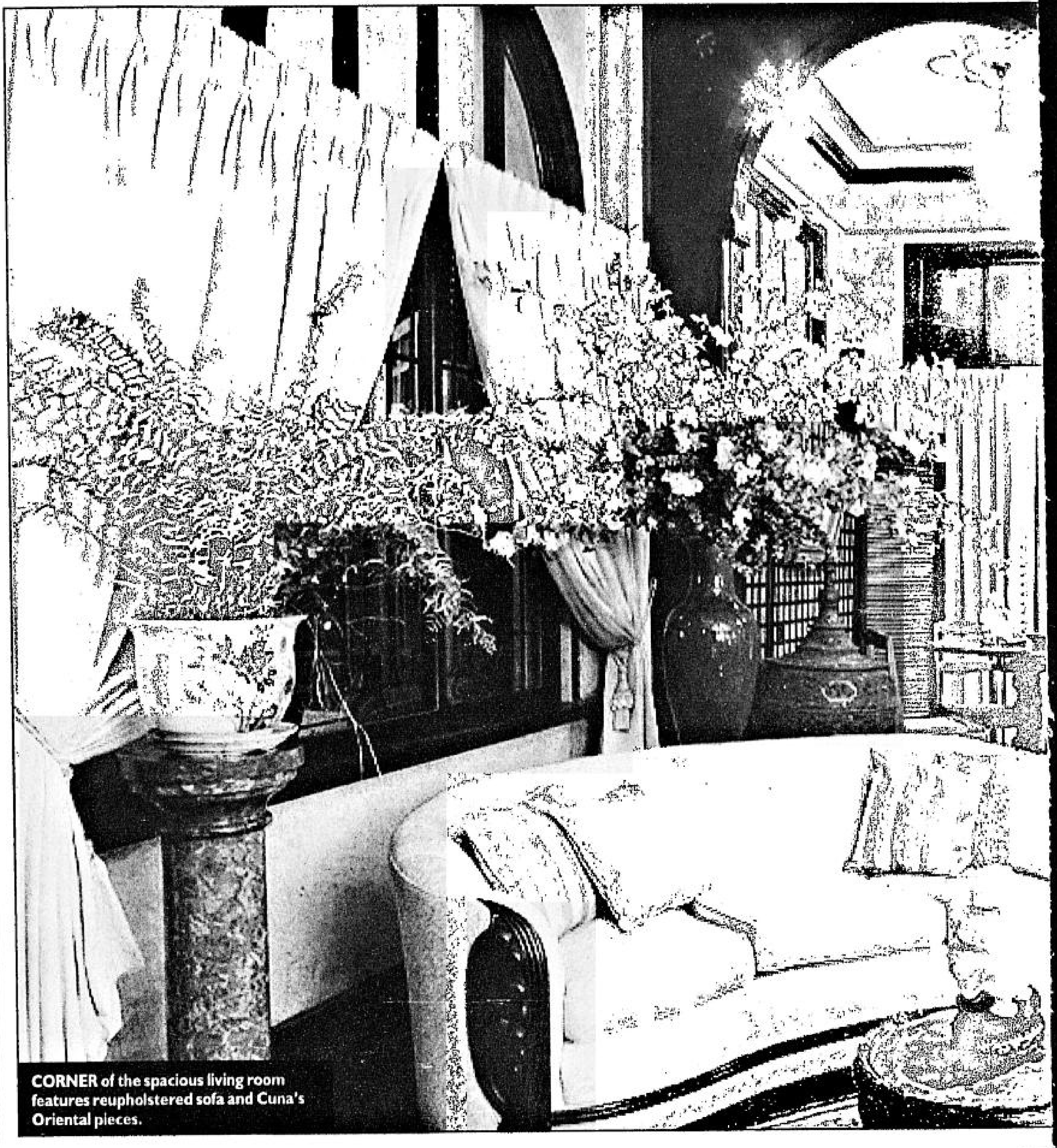


GOLDEN fern

'Di nila mapigilang manggigil!
KRAFT Chunky Chunks
Tayong mga nanay, pag kumpletong palaman K-R-A-F-T!



A PEEK into the dining room



CORNER of the spacious living room features reupholstered sofa and Cuna's Oriental pieces.

AT (ANCESTRAL) home with "floral architect" Rachy Cuna

Dream house

Cuna spruced up the area with various species of ferns from Quezon, such as stag horn and bird's nest. Indeed, he isn't called a 'floral architect' for nothing

From page K1

found it too uncanny, as the color of the embroidery matched the blue incense burner from across the room. Among the more contemporary items are ox-blood jars and huge multicolored vases.

"I had to control myself," says Cuna, with a chuckle. "The temptation to go overboard was always there. I had to constantly remind myself of what I had originally set out to do."

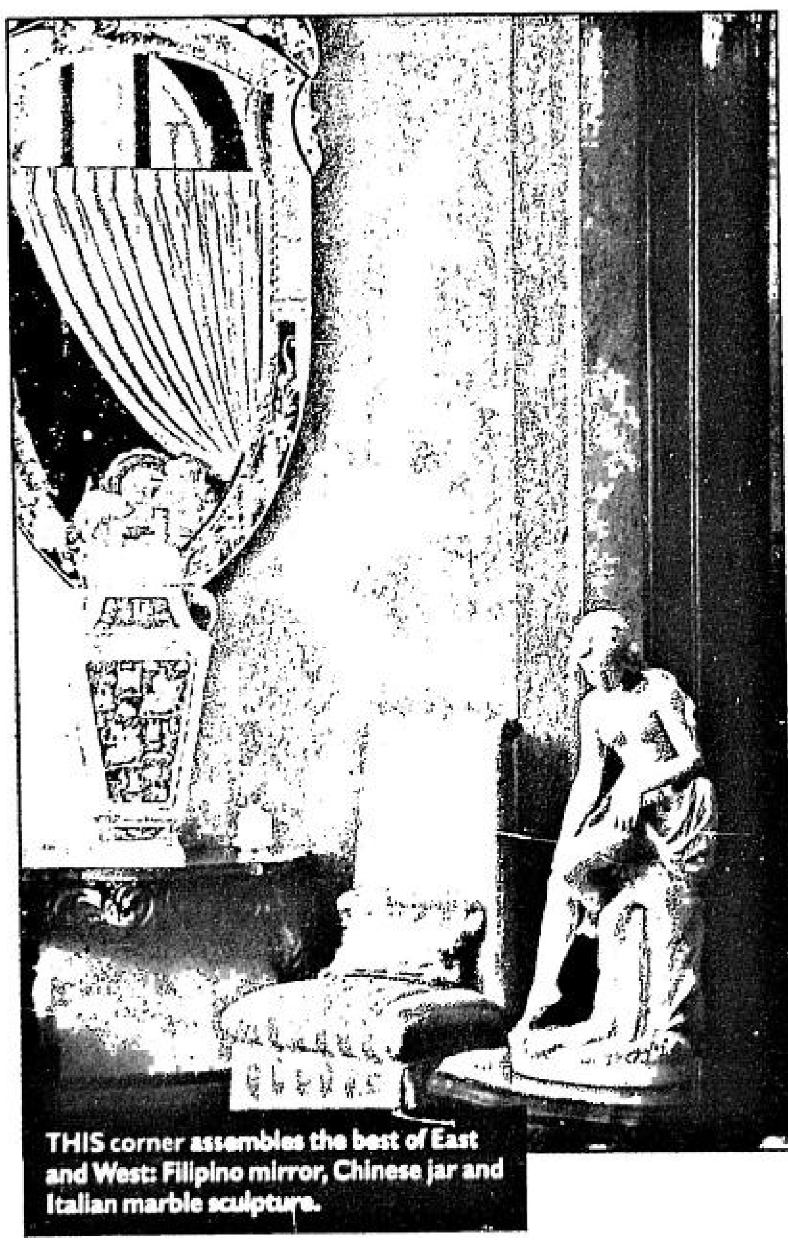
It was easy, of course, for Cuna to go all out. After all, he says, he's used to spending other people's money to "revive" their homes. This time, however, one thought kept him grounded: "I was spending my own money."

But respecting the memories of one's dearly departed didn't mean doing away with modern-day amenities. Since he wanted the place air-conditioned, Cuna was left with no choice but to close the living room's sliding opaque glass windows permanently. That meant no garden view, until he hit upon a better idea.

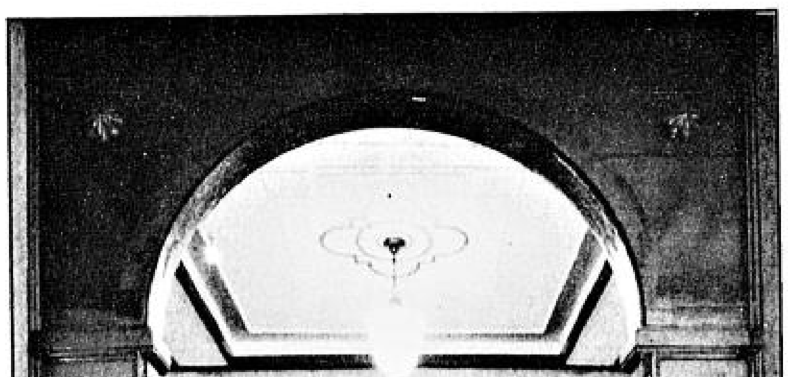
Cool view

"I had sheets of clear glass installed before the sliding windows," he says. "Now my guests and I can have the best of both worlds—feel cool as well as savor the garden view."

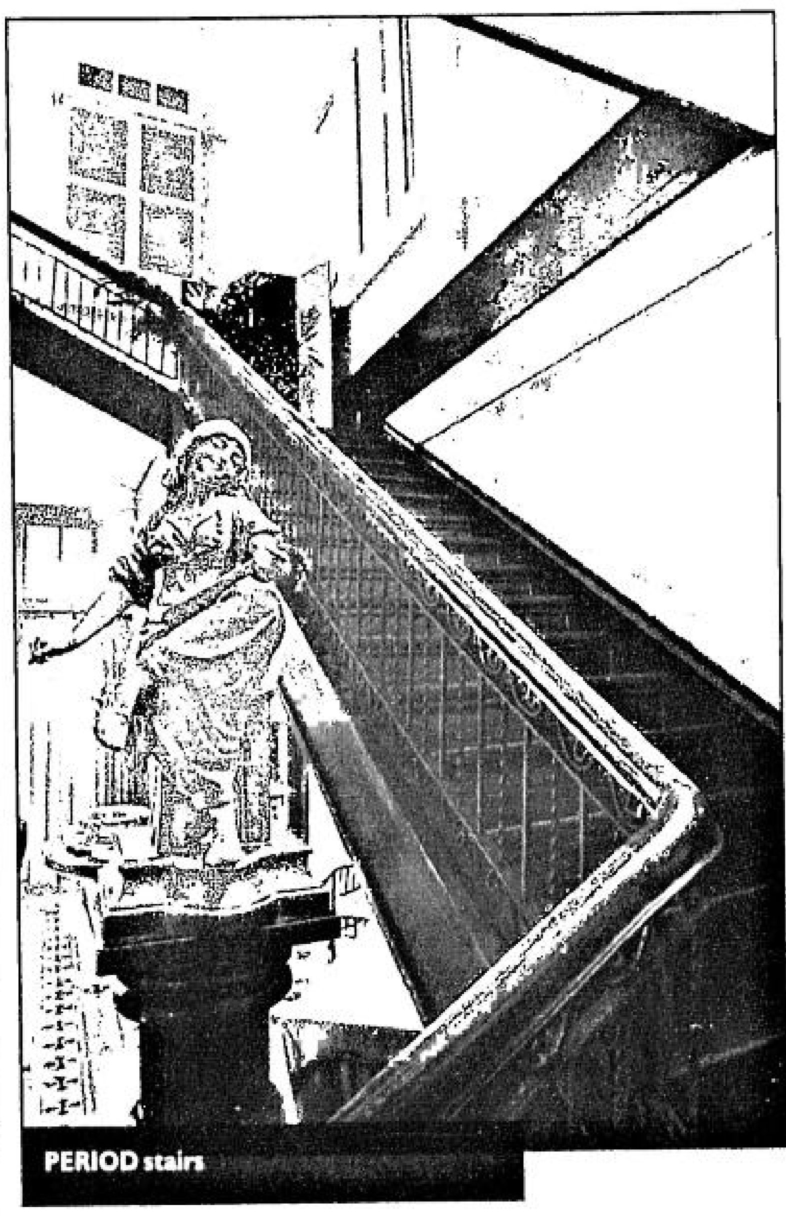
There was really no garden to begin with until Cuna spruced up the area with various species of ferns from Quezon, such as stag



THIS corner assembles the best of East and West: Filipino mirror, Chinese jar and Italian marble sculpture.



ANTIQUE opium bed featuring an embroidered Chinese robe



PERIOD stairs

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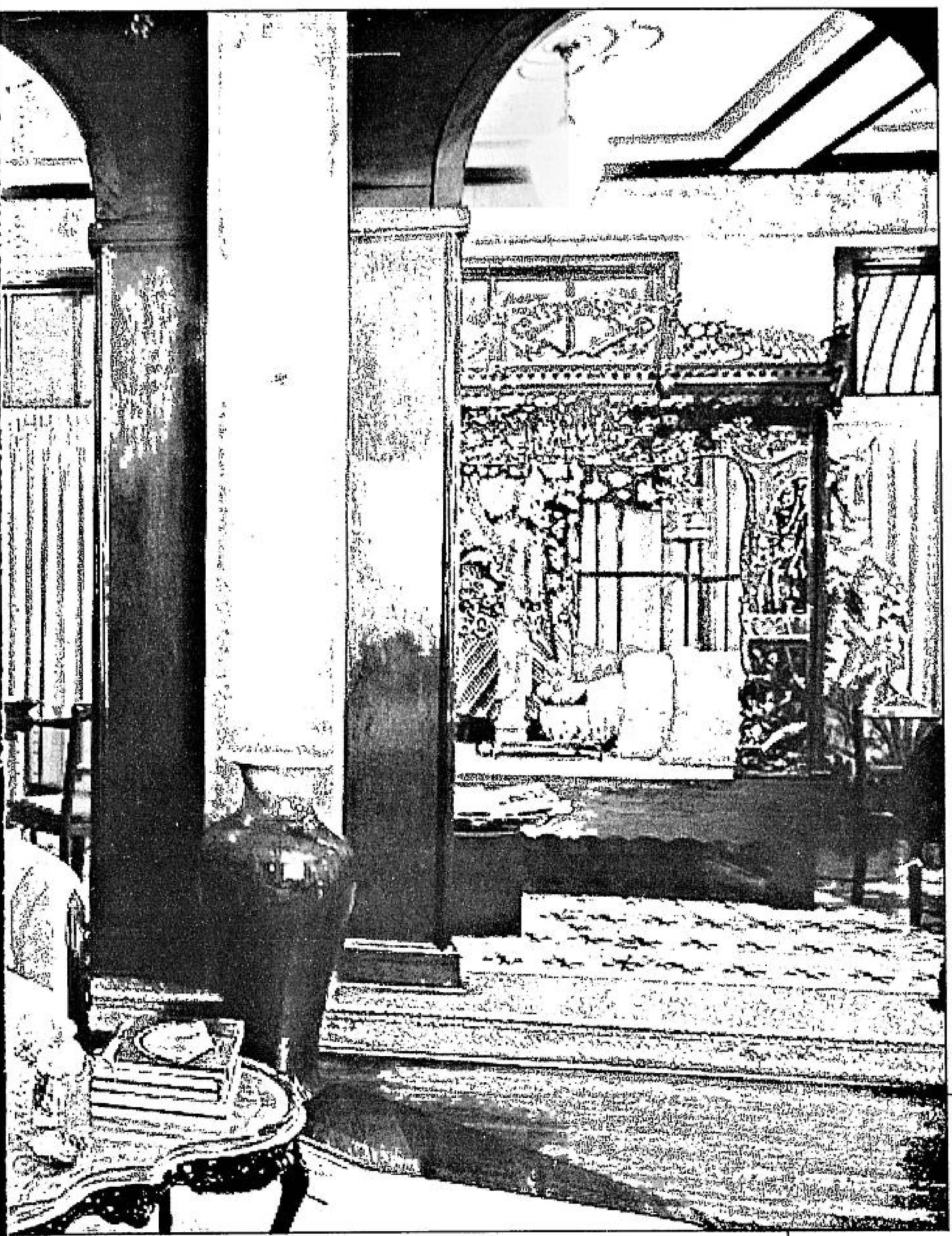
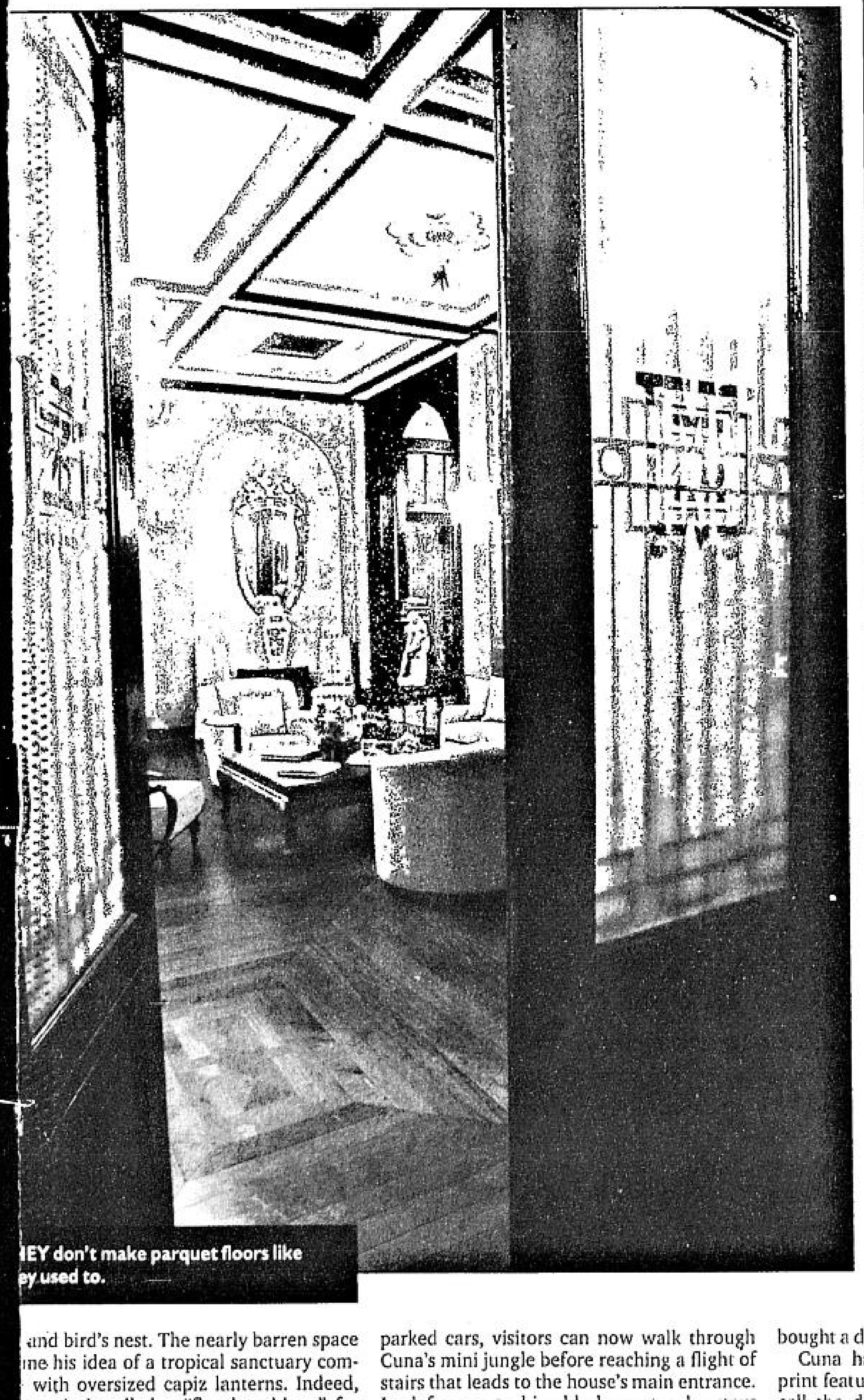


PHOTOGRAPHS and memories include a reproduced painting of Celestina Boncan-Zamora, Cuna's late maternal grandmother.



EY don't make parquet floors like ey used to.

THE HOST in his Fern Room

and bird's nest. The nearly barren space ine his idea of a tropical sanctuary com- with oversized capiz lanterns. Indeed, guy isn't called a "floral architect" for ing.

he garden was finished in two days," he "My friends say it was the 'Imeldific' in

ına also had several doors in the dining closed and concealed with padded walls. lso moved the main entrance along the -way to an existing glass-paneled double that leads to the garden.

tead of negotiating their way around parked cars, visitors can now walk through Cuna's mini jungle before reaching a flight of stairs that leads to the house's main entrance. In deference to his elderly aunt, who stays most of the time on the second floor, he left the area untouched.

"We had to work as fast and as unobtrusively as possible," he says. "In choosing paint, for example, we chose water-based paint over oil-based paint, which was quite smelly."

For a time, the newly painted dining-room walls posed a problem. Cuna was thinking of what to hang on the walls until a friend reminded him of several antique prints they bought a decade ago in London.

Cuna had them framed, and since each print featured a particular fern, he decided to call the dining room the "Fern Room." He then had several real ferns dipped in 24-karat gold.

Imagine Cuna's surprise when he learned from another friend that there was such a thing as *pako* (fern) salad. A few days later, while shopping at Rustan's, he almost squealed in delight after seeing several porcelain serving plates adorned with, yes, fern leaves.

"It was serendipity at work," he says with a wink. "So every time I host a meal in this house, I always start with *pako* salad. Everything just fell into place."

Cuna makes it sound so easy, but there were times when money to finance his personal project was in short supply. It was during such times that he'd ask his grandparents' help—sometimes loud enough for carpenters to hear and think he was going mad—and soon enough, the problem would take care of itself. Just like in a dream.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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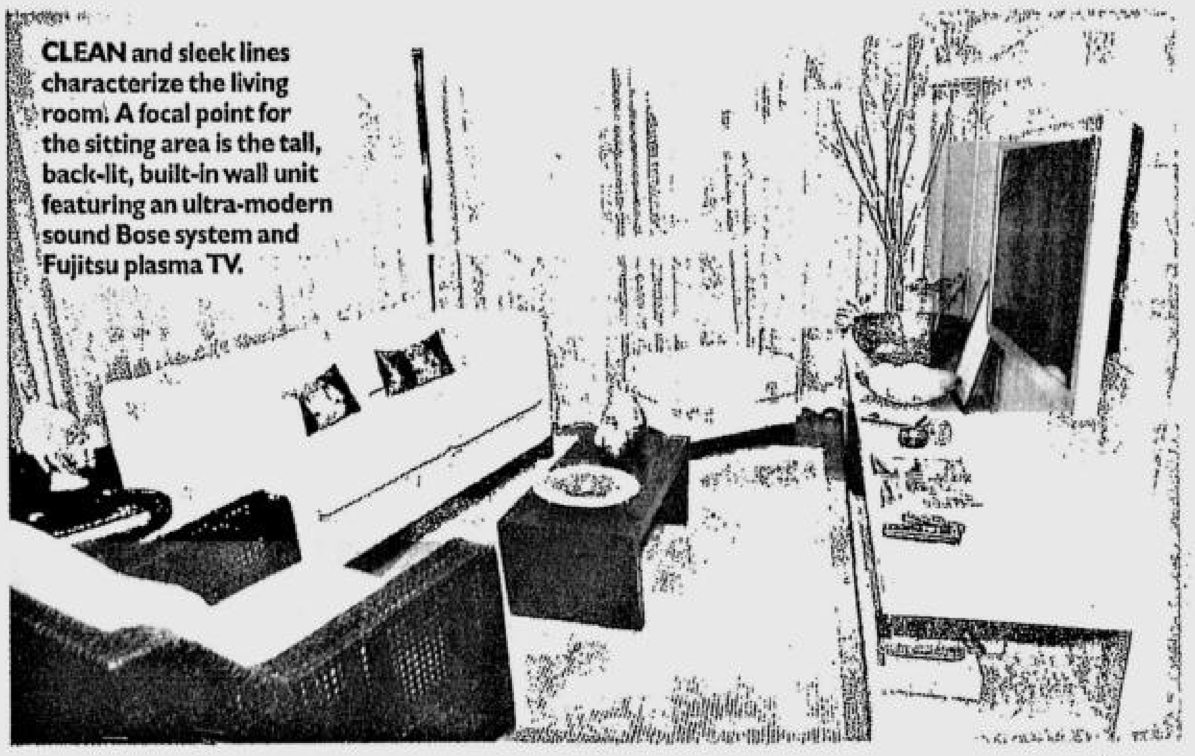

CLEAN and sleek lines characterize the living room. A focal point for the sitting area is the tall, back-lit, built-in wall unit featuring an ultra-modern sound Bose system and Fujitsu plasma TV.

WVCA interior designer Marion Coscolluela dressed the windows of the master bedroom in cream Roman shades that could be drawn down for more privacy. Soft, indirect lighting complements the dropped ceiling above the queen-size bed.

Genteel living in the heart of the city

THE 48-STORY Laguna Tower is the first of the three towers to rise in the Residences, the only residential condominium located within the Greenbelt commercial complex at the heart of the Makati central business district.

Each floor of Laguna Tower hosts four two-bedroom units and two three-bedroom units measuring at least 187-190 sq m each. Most of the units are designed with balconies that allow an extension of the open interior environment to the outdoors.

Designed by US-based Architecture International Ltd., the Laguna Tower's asymmetrical shape takes advantage of its central location, providing a panoramic view of the mountains in the distance and the bay beyond, as well as the beautiful garden landscape of the Greenbelt Park below.

Ayala Land invites you to take a peek into this privileged life with the three-bedroom model unit designed by renowned interior designer WV Coscolluela and Associates. It is open from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Residences model units at 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center in Makati.

Interested buyers can take advantage of the new easy-payment schemes. If you reserve a three-bedroom unit on the day of your visit and book within 30 days, depending on the unit reserved, you may also enjoy the additional privilege of an annual four-day three-night complimentary stay at Oakwood.

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RICHARD and Nancy McGonegal enjoy the convenience and amenities of Laguna Tower.

MAXIMUM use of space is achieved with the twin beds facing a three-meter desk suspended on the opposite wall. Wide glass windows afford a panoramic view of the skyscrapers outside.

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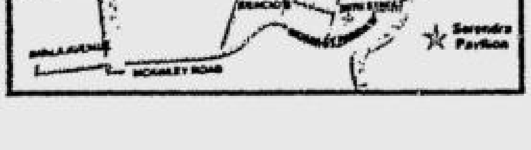

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PEOPLE**SUPPORT** is a US-based, business process outsourcing (BPO) provider that delivers multi-channel customer care and back office processing solutions via voice, email, chat and fax support on a 24x7 basis, 365 days a year.

CALL 755.2600

PEOPLE**SUPPORT**

Makati: 12-14F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City 1200
29-33F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
21 & 25F Export Bank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1200
Cebu: e-Office One and Two AsiaTown IT Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City 6000

Telephone Numbers:

Makati:		Cebu:	
HR:	02.755 2600	HR:	032 234 8247
DL:	02 885 8000	DL	032 234.8200
FAX:	02.885.8097	FAX:	032.234 8299

SM SUPERMALLS
• PAMPANGA •

WE ARE LOOKING

for proactive, dynamic management professionals who are customer-oriented and computer literate with excellent communication skills to join our team as:

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

- Preferably graduate of Communication Arts, Marketing, Fine Arts or any 4-year related course
- Must have at least one year experience in multimedia, advertising, promotions and events
- Creative, innovative with good organizational skills and can effectively implement marketing efforts

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Certified Public Accountant
- With two years supervisory experience preferably with auditing background

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Accounting or any four year business course
- Must have intensive experience in warehousing

Qualified applicants may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 10:00 a. m. to 11:00 a. m. or send their resume with 2 x 2 ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Shopping Center Management Corporation
SM City Pampanga, Mall Administration Office
Barangay San Jose City of San Fernando

A LEADING MARKETING COMPANY ENGAGED IN NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IS IN URGENT NEED OF A TOP CALIBER:

Personnel and Administrative Manager

- ➢ Female, between 30-45 years old; pleasing personality
- ➢ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- ➢ At least five (5) years of Human Resource Management experience in a managerial capacity
- ➢ Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- ➢ Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- ➢ Must be people-oriented and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- ➢ Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

MN-2059
c/o Classifieds Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
Chino Roces Ave., cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts.
Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

We are in need of Aggressive and Result-oriented Individuals to fill our vacancies

LAMCO
INTERNATIONAL
The Preferred I.T. Distributor

ACCOUNT MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business course or other relevant degree
- Must have at least two years relevant work experience in the IT industry
- Must possess an excellent track record of building and managing accounts
- Must be aggressive and possess excellent skills in formulating marketing plans and strategies
- Must possess excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Must possess the ability to work under pressure and minimal supervision
- Must be a Team Player and have excellent interpersonal relationship skills

ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Female, 21-30 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in the IT industry, Preferably in account management
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Responsible, aggressive and output-oriented
- Good command in written and spoken English
- With pleasing personality

SALES OFFICER

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Female, 21-30 years old, with or without experience
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- High level of customer credibility
- Responsible, aggressive and output-oriented
- Good command in written and spoken English
- With pleasing personality

PRODUCT MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year business course or other relevant degree
- Must have at least two years relevant work experience in the IT industry
- Must possess an excellent track record of managing and promoting IT Products
- Must be aggressive and possess excellent skills in formulating marketing plans and strategies
- Must possess excellent written and oral English communication skills
- Must possess the ability to work under pressure and minimal supervision
- Must be a Team Player and have excellent interpersonal Relationship skills

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Male or Female, 21-30 years old
- With at least 1 year work experience in the IT industry, preferably in handling product promotion
- Aggressive, responsible and output-oriented
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Good command in written and spoken English

Send your resume or submit personally at:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
LAMCO International Trading Corporation, Inc.
Suite 1804 18/F Tektite East Tower, PSEC
Ortigas , Pasig City

Or you can also apply on-line at hrm@lamco.com.ph. For further information and other career opportunities, visit our website at www.lamco.com.ph

www.lamco.com.ph

MACRO SVC Inc.

Can't find a job?... Age is not a problem...
Then call or visit us...

We are a premier service provider for International clients. We are seeking for our outbound campaign dynamic people with:

- ☐ Very Good communication skills in English
- ☐ Preferably with telemarketing experience but not essential
- ☐ Assertive and willingness to work

Successful applicants will have ***on the job training***, enjoy the campaign's ***9:00 AM - 6:00 PM schedule & weekend off, and earn as much as Php 20,000 a month.***

MacroSVC Inc.
409 Cityland 10 Tower1, 156 HV Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 7532423 or 7531750

ANZCHAM

AUSTRALIAN - NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2004 BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP FOR A YOUNG FILIPINO ACHIEVER IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM) is offering an Agricultural Fellowship to a deserving young Filipino wishing to further his/her studies in this field. The Fellowship is an initiative of ANZCHAM and funded by the various activities of the Chamber.

The Fellow will receive a travel grant to undertake a short-term study program (2 to 3 weeks) intended to strengthen career development and undergo specialist training not available locally. An important objective of the Program is to foster the development of business skills in agriculture and for the expertise gained to be passed on to Regions or areas in need in the Philippines.

Applications for the 2004 ANZCHAM Business Fellowship are invited from:

- ➢ Individuals in the workforce who show potential for further development; and
- ➢ Postgraduate research degree students nearing the completion of their studies.

Short courses being offered in the Business Fellowship Programme at the University of Queensland are the following:

a) Industry Plant Protection
b) Plant Tissue Culture Techniques and Nursery Management
c) Apiary Production

The chosen candidate must be ready to depart either in October, November or December 2004.

Applications must include: bio-data (indicate if you have a valid passport), study proposal (15 pages max) and selected course (choose only 1 course) and should be sent to:

Australian- New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Philippines), Inc.
7th Floor Oakwood Premier, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City

All applications must be received on or before Friday, 3 September 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A FAST GROWING MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IS INVITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

(1) AREA SALES MANAGER

- ➢ College graduate, MBA preferred
- ➢ Excellent managerial skills
- ➢ Excellent track record in sales and marketing; experience in lumber an advantage
- ➢ Willing to travel and with valid driver's license
- ➢ Goal driven, team player, honest and hardworking
- ➢ Must be proficient in spoken and written English and Tagalog. Ability to speak Chinese a plus factor
- ➢ Male, at least 35 years old
- ➢ Computer literate
- ➢ P325,000 – P455,000 per year

(1) LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

- ➢ Male, 25-40 years old
- ➢ Graduate of BSME or Business/Engineering course
- ➢ Minimum of 2 years experience in handling logistics such as supervision of fleet operations, warehousing and planning, deployment, scheduling and preventive maintenance of vehicles
- ➢ Computer literate
- ➢ Can work independently
- ➢ P156,000 – P195,000 per year

(4) SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- ➢ Male, 25-35 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Engineering
- ➢ Experience in selling, preferably lumber products
- ➢ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ➢ With pleasing personality
- ➢ Computer literate
- ➢ With driver's license
- ➢ P84,500 – P130,000 per year

Interested parties may e-mail or personally submit their resumé/biodata with 2x2 picture, NBI clearance, transcript of academic records to:

BUDGET BUILDERS, INC.
Building Center
Eusebio Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City
MobilePhone Number: 0918-5615868
E-mail Address: breconsult@netexecutive.com

POWER MEMORY MAKATI EAST

Power Memory, an innovative center for learning, is looking for hard-working and dedicated individuals to join our dynamic team. We are in need of the following:

TRAINERS

- ➢ Not more than 35 years old
- ➢ Preferably a graduate of top schools in Metro Manila
- ➢ Possesses good leadership and communication skills
- ➢ Good team player
- ➢ Fluent in Filipino and English
- ➢ Experience in teaching or training is an advantage
- ➢ Strong sense of professionalism

MARKETING OFFICER

- ➢ Not more than 35 years old
- ➢ At least two years' experience in sales or marketing
- ➢ Possesses good communication skills
- ➢ Fluent in Filipino and English
- ➢ Good team player
- ➢ Strong sense of professionalism

Successful candidates can look forward to good start-up salary plus commissions. Please submit your resumé through mail or deliver to:

Power Memory Makati East
Rm. 206 Narra Bldg., 2276 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, MM
E-mail: pm_makatieast@yahoo.com

SILVERGATE

Group of Companies
The premier provider of electro-computer products and services for the interactive gaming and audio-visual entertainment market

Human Resource Assistant

- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- College Graduate, preferably psychology or behavioral science or any related course
- Good commanding skills
- With pleasing personality & good interpersonal skills

PC & Electronics Technician

- Male, Single, not over 25 years old
- Preferably an engineering graduate specializing in computers and electronics
- Proficient in hardware/software troubleshooting, installation, & assembly
- Proficient in network configuration & cabling
- Knowledgeable in diagrams & fine soldering skill

Accounting Assistant

- Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Candidate must be a graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- Analytical and detail-oriented
- Could work on extended hours, with minimal supervision
- Proficient in business application software

Management Trainee

- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Graduate of any business course, preferably with MBA degree
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills
- Good commanding and interpersonal skills, with pleasing personality; excellent organization and logistic skills.
- Aggressive, results oriented, self-motivated and highly-trainable
- Advanced proficiency with MS Office applications and other software

Sales & Account Executive

- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- College Graduate of any course
- Proficient in verbal and written communication
- With pleasing personality & good in public relations
- Aggressive, sales-driven, self-motivated and results-oriented
- Willing to be sent to various parts of the city

Marketing Assistant

- Male/Female, Single, not over 25 years old
- Graduate in Business Management or Marketing
- Proficient in design, layout, written, & oral communication
- With pleasing personality and good in public relations
- Aggressive, self-motivated and results oriented

Interested applicants may submit their resume with a recent 2x2 picture and other credentials at 219 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. or email to: silverg8@info.com.ph. For inquiries, call 723-8832 / 722-8053.

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sportshouse

is in need of the following:

Store Supervisor

- Male / Female, College graduate
- Responsible, Trustworthy, can work with minimum supervision
- Must possess strong leadership skills

Accounting Staff

- Female, must be Accounting graduate with good scholastic records
- With Extensive experience in Accounting works
- Possesses good working attitude

Purchasing Staff

- Female, College graduate
- Good communication skills
- Computer literate

Cashiers / Sales Personnel

- Male / Female
- At least 5'6" for male and 5'3" for female
- 2nd year college level

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture at:

Sportshouse Human Resource Department
19 Pecton Building, Gilmore Avenue,
New Manila, Quezon City
or e-mail at hrd@sportshouse.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LAWYERS

- ➢ Must be good in research and drafting, and capable of keen legal reasoning based on solid knowledge of the law. Trial experience desired but not necessary.
- ➢ With strong initiative and self-motivation, and the ability to work well even with little supervision. Results oriented.
- ➢ Able to generate effective "out-of-the-box" solutions to real problems.
- ➢ Confident but humble, willing to learn and be trained.
- ➢ Possess excellent interpersonal, communication, negotiation and organizational skills.
- ➢ Should be team players with a sense of humor.
- ➢ With character chiseled on the bedrock of courage, conviction, compassion, diligence, loyalty, and the ideal of justice.
- ➢ Must believe that the exceptional practice of law can truly make a difference.

Please submit your comprehensive resumé with a current 2x2 photo to:

The Managing Partner
Fondevilla Jasarino Young
Rondario & Librojo
Law Offices

1701 Tektite Tower I (East)
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, 1065
Tel. Nos. 635-4978; 635-5653

Taiwanese Importer of Car Acc's
Wanted: Sales Representative

Qualifications

1. Male, 25-40 years old
2. College graduate
3. With sales experience
4. Hardworking

Please call Tel. # 743-7739 / 741-0563

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Contracting of Consulting Services for Project ID 00014499 - Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local / international consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various activities of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project ID 00014499 -Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets; (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE; (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities; and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) Policy, Planning, and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of national consultant who shall undertake specific tasks for Component 4.

RE Financing and Delivery Mechanisms Expert (National Expert)

This component shall be involved in establishing three (3) pilot funds to support RE projects that promote and apply innovative strategies and delivery mechanisms.

The national consultant is expected to (a) assist in and oversee the conduct of the RE Financing and Delivery Mechanisms subcontract and recommend improvements in the reports of the subcontractor; (b) coordinate and provide technical support to the subcontractor and the RE Financing Advisor on the development of the fund promotions program, including the required project management guidelines; c) actively participate in and guide coordination / management meetings with RE project developers on project proposals for funding; (d) assess and recommend appropriate initiatives delivery mechanisms for potential projects; (e) design and conduct promotional workshop for potential RE projects; (f) provide directions / guidance / inputs to the design / production of promotional flyers / brochures for the three (3) funds; (g) define the roles, coordinating procedures and communications protocol for the implementation of the financing program; (h) conduct hands-on training as may be necessary; and (i) provide inputs to the Project Management Office on the attributes of a sustainable financing program; among others.

Interested parties must submit their letters of interest, together with their curriculum vitaes (CV's), starting 30 August 2004 to 8 September 2004 only, to the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598

Bid Documents will be released to shortlisted candidates starting 15 September 2004. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and,other schedules, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

The Century Park Hotel

is inviting qualified applicants for the position of

SOUS CHEF – F & B
(Main Kitchen)

and

SOUS CHEF – F & B
(Coffee Shop Kitchen)

- Seven (7) years experience, preferably in a hotel of international standard, at least three (3) years in similar position in cold and hot kitchen
- Cost-oriented
- Ability to handle personnel is a must
- Willing to work on split shift
- Personable and neat
- Must be very creative and quality-minded
- Not more than 40 years old
- Must have finished at least two (2) years of college education
- With strong leadership ability

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumés with a recent 2 x 2 colored photo and relevant certificates at:

599 P. Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila
or P.O. Box 117, CPO, Manila

KMBI

A Christian development organization engaged in Microfinance & Business Development Services needs the following staff for its expansion in Calabarzon area (Sta. Cruz, San Pablo, Calamba, Batangas, Quezon), Caraga Region (Butuan, Surigao, Agusan), Bicol & Southern Mindanao areas.

Business Dev't. Services/Transformation Officer (for Bicol & Caraga)
- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 1-2 years experience in community organizing
- Innovative, people oriented and motivator
- An active Christian

Accounting Associates (for Batangas, Lipa, Comval, Kidapawan, Iriga, Gumaca)
- Male/Female, a graduate of accountancy
- Familiar in FS preparation, and Branch to Head office reporting
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon & Mindanao

Audit Manager/Associates
- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & teamplayer
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 2-3 years managerial auditing experience

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at the HRD Dept., KMBI Head Office, #12

KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City or email
at kmbi@skyinet.net or m_orodio@yahoo.com
Telephone Numbers 291-1484-85; Fax No. 292-2441

We offer above minimum salary rates, Php 1-M Accident Insurance Coverage, Health Benefit, Rice Allowance and Incentive Package on top of the statutory benefits, plus a chance to travel locally and international.

Opening doors for greater career opportunities.

JOB OPENINGS:

Technical Support Representative
Customer Service Representative w/ Financial Background
Team Leader/Coach
Quality Analyst
Telecommunications Supervisor
Telecommunications Engineer
Help Desk Engineer
Operations Manager
Data Network Engineer
Financial Trainer
Accounting Assistant
Data Network Administrator
Data Network Engineer
Payroll Assistant

JOBFAIR:

Bring your resume w/
2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Aug 30 - Sept 3
34/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

Let's Study in Japan

From
the People of Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2005-2006

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (2 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   2-1. *(for public sector)*
      -Public Administration (8 persons)
      -Economics (7 persons)
      -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
      -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 35 years old as of April 1, 2005. Those who were born on/after April 2, 1970. (Age limit is subject to change without prior notice. Please confirm with JICE Office or web site.)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent.
4) Work experience At least 2 years of work experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2005

Application

- Applicants must complete Application Documents.
- Application Documents are distributed at
  - JICE JDS Project Office, or
  - can be downloaded at http://www.jice.org/english/

Selection Procedures

- The First Selection
  Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.
- SCS Interview
  Successful candidates of the 1st selection process should undergo SCS* Interview.
- * SCS: Special Committee on Scholarships
- The Second Selection
  - Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.
- The Third Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2005.
- The Fourth Selection
  - Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2005.
  - Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 17:00hrs on October 22, 2004
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be permitted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
* Unit 2008, 88 Corporate Center, Valero corner Sedeno Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
* TEL: 02-757-4990
* Official Web Site: http://www.jice.org/english/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA- Special Committee on Scholarships)

JOBMarket ONLINE
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The best companies need the best people.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN A WINNING TEAM?

ABENSON
All About Appliances.

ELECTROWORLD

WINSOME
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Walter Mart
Supermarket IGA

HOME Plus
FURNITURE

We are expanding rapidly and we need top caliber individuals

- *strong verbal and written communication skills*
- *pleasing and customer service-oriented personality*
- *proficient in the use of computer applications*
- *team-oriented, results-driven, principle-centered, flexible individuals*

JOB OPENINGS

MARKETING PRODUCT MANAGER (5)

- Graduates of Marketing, Advertising, Mass Communication and other related business course
- Able to develop, implement and evaluate marketing plans and activities

SHOPPING CENTER ADMIN MANAGER (Manila (2), Cavite (2), Laguna (2))

- Graduates of any Business, Marketing, Engineering and or other related course
- Exposure in tenants relations, day-to-day center admin/operations facilities management in retail shopping center or mall operations
- Must have at least 2 years managerial background; with high standards of quality and customer service orientation

SECURITY AND SAFETY MANAGER (Manila (2) and Laguna (1))

- Graduates BS Criminology, Military Science or related course
- With at least 3 years retail experience in security and safety management

LEASING MANAGER (3)

- Graduates of 4 years Business course
- Exposure in shopping center or mall operations preferred
- Experience in leasing of retail/office space, shopping center leasing and mall management an advantage

STORE MANAGER (2)

- Graduates of Business Admin or other Business courses
- With strong marketing and sales background, good leadership skills and people management
- Experience in retail stores is an advantage

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER (3)

- Graduates of Marketing, Advertising, Mass Communication and other related course
- Excellent customer service orientation
- Experience in Retail Operations

TRAINING SUPERVISOR (2)

- Graduates of Behavioral Science, Psychology, Business Management or other related courses
- Knowledge in the conduct of TNA and group dynamics
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in designing and conducting behavioral and sales training programs

PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR (2)

- Graduates of Behavioral Science, Psychology, Business Management, Industrial
- Relations, or other related course
- Knowledgeable in Recruitment, Employee and Labor Relations and Compensation and Benefits
- With at least 3 years experience in Human Resource Management

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (2) / MECHANICAL ENGINEER (2)

- Licensed Electrical, Mechanical Engineering
- Able to develop electrical and mechanical plans
- Exposure to maintenance and administration of Shopping Centers, commercial buildings and facilities management

RETAIL DESIGNER (2)

- Graduates of Architecture
- With retail exposure and experience in Shopping Center, Supermarket and General Merchandise layout

We offer a highly attractive compensation package, incentive and bonuses commensurate to performance and opportunities for continuing training and development.

You can work where you live.

LAGUNA • CAVITE • BATANGAS • PAMPANGA • CABANATUAN • PANGASINAN • BAGUIO • METRO MANILA

ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS MAY APPLY IN PERSON OR EMAIL THEIR RESUME TO: **abehrd@abenson.com**

ABENSON ELECTROWORLD
SHERIDAN
#11 BENITO BUILDING, SHERIDAN STREET
MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. #631-8161 TO 64 LOC. 114
M to TH - 8:30am - 10am

Walter Mart
CAVITE
KM. 30 AGUINALDO HIGHWAY
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
(046)416-5290
MTW - 9am - 11am

Walter Mart
LAGUNA
REAL ST. BRGY. REAL
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
(049)545-7032
MTW - 9am - 11am

DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government, non-profit and non-stock organization involved in the sales and distribution of contraceptive products is in need of the following individuals for:

Social Marketing Representatives

(GMA/North Luzon/Visayas)

- A dedicated self-starter, aggressive and highly motivated individual.
- Previous experience in a sales organization with consumer products and possesses the necessary presentation skills with the ability and aptitude to learn and understand information of medical science in nature.
- Must know how to drive and possesses a valid driver's license.
- Graduate of any four or five year degree courses.
- Must have a strong interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to speak any of the following dialect is preferred: Pangalatok, Ilocano, Ibanag, Hiligaynon and/or Bisaya (for provincial assignments).

Franchise Operations Manager

Job Description:

The Franchise Operations Manager will be responsible for the development, operation, and expansion of a franchise undertaking in the Philippines. He/She will manage this effort within a department consisting of professionals engaged in collaborative efforts with government units, industrial entities, health service providers and non-governmental organizations.

Job Requirements:

The successful candidate will be a result-oriented individual with proven entrepreneurial, management and leadership skills. He/She will be a strategic thinker, a change agent, and a team player with a hands-on approach of work that will contribute to high levels of achievement within the organization. He/she must have exceptional proven skills in written and oral communications, public speaking, and presentations, problem solving and analysis, and decision-making.

The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements:

- College Degree in Business Management or equivalent. A Master's Degree is an added advantage.
- Minimum of five (5) years relevant experience in sales, marketing or franchise system development and operation.
- A track record of high achievement.
- Highly organized, systematic, and heads-on work ethic.
- Proficient in computer programs.

Applicants can look forward to an industry competitive package. Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé thru mail or e-mail, no later than Sept. 1, 2004:

Human Resources Department
DKT Philippines, Inc.
Suite 801 The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City
E-mail: hrd@frenzy.com.ph

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myAyala.com, Inc. is a member of the Ayala Group of Companies. As a pioneer in the field of B2C e-commerce and online shopping, we are in need of highly competent and creative individuals who are:

- Progressive thinkers who have a knack for the Internet and the New Economy
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- Willing to work long hours
- Driven, goal-oriented
- Pleasing personality, flexible
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills
- Leaders and movers who believe they can make significant contributions to move the company forward

1. Senior Systems Developer and Network Administrator

Department: Technical
Reporting to: General Manager
Qualifications/Skills:
Proficient in network architecture, implementation and security. Must be proficient in TCPIP protocol and network ports.
Must have working knowledge of Visual Basic .Net, SQL database, ASP, HTML and other web related scripts.
Can plan, organize, control and execute technical projects, lead software teams, as well as manage resources involved.
Experience related to consumer goods and customer service a plus.
A minimum of 3 years technical experience required.

2. Junior Programmer

Department: Technical
Reporting to: Senior Systems Developer and Network Administrator
Qualifications/Skills:
Must have programming knowledge of Visual Basic .Net, SQL database, ASP, HTML and other web related scripts.
Basic computer hardware troubleshooting required.
Must be creative, hardworking and disciplined.
Can interface well in a team composed of non-technical personnel.
Experience related to consumer goods and customer service a plus.

3. CRM OFFICER

Qualifications/Skills:
Customer oriented.
Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills.
Must be proficient in data processing and mining.
Responsibilities:
Generate internal sales.
Establish buying patterns and create programs to serve customer needs.
Maintain constant communication with the customers.

4. Online Customer Relations and Key Accounts Coordinator

Qualifications/Skills:
Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills as well as good interpersonal skills.
Must have experiential background in e-commerce procedures and principles.
Experience in customer handling a plus.
Responsibilities:
Handle all online customer concerns and queries.
Manage all channels of customer communication (e-mail, phone, voice mail, comments page)

Applicants who love to work with young dynamic individuals in agile, responsive teams, drink lots of coffee and coke, yet hate office uniforms and paying for parking tickets, are preferred. Submit applications via email to hrd@myayala.com, fax (+632 8132414), or send to myAyala.com M/F Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City 1228 before August 31, 2004.

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manufacturer of established brand names for local and export market is currently accepting applicants for the following positions:

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Graduate of any business course; male or female, not more than 30 years old; with experience in a garment retail industry

TRAINING MANAGER

30 year old and above; At least 5-10 years experience in a managerial position; has abroad and deep working knowledge of the various aspects of training, focusing on TNA, design and evaluation

SALES MANAGER

Graduate of any business course; male or female; not more than 35 years old; with proven track record in selling; experience in garment retail industry will be an advantage;

ACCOUNTANTS

Must be a Certified Public Accountant; with at least 2 years work experience in in the related field

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

Male or female; 24 to 35 years old; with at least 3 years work experience in production planning, time and motion study and analysis

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Graduate of any business course; male or female; not more than 25 years old

Due to the urgency of the requirement, bring your resumes, transcript of records and recent photo to:

Authentic American Apparel
Km. 21 West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa
E-mail: hrdiv@fil-pacific.com
Contact Numbers: 8421546-47 or 7723504
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- Graduate of top universities in the Philippines (UP, Ateneo, DLSU)
- Preferably with Teaching License

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Pasig Blvd. cor Rosemarie Lane Pasig City, Philippines 1600

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Encoder/Information Manager

The E/IM will take charge and stewardship over single or multiple sites ensuring that they remain responsive to the needs of the client and the end users.

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Database Programmer for Web-based DBs

Requirements:

- excellent in PHP 4
- knowledge in MySQL 4, db design and deployment in redhat 9
- hard knowledge on linux redhat 9, apache 2.0
- javascript (cross-browser)
- html 4 and css
- XML 1.0 / SAX / DOM
- fast learner
- considerable knowledge in data modeling
- able to work well under pressure in a team environment.
- result-oriented person
- needs to articulate (preferably good communication skills: English [written and oral])
- has a keen eye for detail
- pleasing personality

For information on our requirements see http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs/db.htm

Project Manager

The project manager (PM) takes charge of a development team of 3-6 persons. His ultimate responsibility is the timely and efficient completion of software and web development projects. Due to the large scope of responsibility entailed with the position, the PM is authorized to move heaven and earth in the pursuit of project completion within deadlines and within budgets.

For information on our requirements see http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs/pm.htm

Applicants should provide/send the following documents to us via mail or email. Four (4) documents are required.

1. A brief resumé providing your name, current contact info and history of education and employment. Please include references (no relations).

2. A comprehensive listing of past work and project involvements. Please state what your role/s were and specific tasks that you performed for the project. Use as many pages as you require.

3. An essay talking about your working style and kind of work you are hoping for. It should be no longer than one page (letter-sized) double spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman or Helvetica.

4. A photograph (may be included in the basic resumé)

ALL INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REJECTED.

Documents must be provided in either TEXT FILE, or PDF formats. Please check your attachements for viruses before sending. Our server will automatically reject any infected documents.

Selected applicants will be interviewed.

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Email your package to:
jobs@slingshot.ph or mail to:
Unit 3309 Robinson's
Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

More info at http://www.slingshot.ph/jobs

Resident Mine Manager

- Male mining professional; with minimum 5 years supervisory experience in open pit mines. Exposure to all facets of Quarry, Mill, Camp Administration and Legal and Environmental concerns involving mines a must

Chief Surveyor

- Geodetic Engineer with Supervisory Experience of Multiple Survey Teams, adept at handling survey software

Maintenance Engineer

- Preferably an M.E. with at least 5 years supervisory experience, Extensive knowledge of H.E. Troubleshooting and preventive maintenance programs a must. Management experience in handling various depts. Handling a shop supporting 100 units of H.E. Equipment a must

Certified Public Accountant

- Male/Female w/ or w/out experience to assist in cost control and materials inventory management

H.E. Equipment Mechanics, Hydraulics Technician, Grader Operator, Licensed Drill and Blast Foreman, Geodetic Engineers

Send resumé or Apply in person to:

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PRODUCTS INC.
H.R. Department, Room 302,
15 West Ave., Quezon City
(Atop SAISAKI Rest.,
beside StarBucks Coffee)
e-mail : pacific@itextron.com

A Leading Contractor company is in need of the following.

1 **AutoCADD Operator**
- 23 to 35 years old, Male or Female
- Must be adept in using AutoCADD 2000, AutoCADD LT
- Engineering & Architecture Graduate Preferred
- Knowledge in Stoneworks Detailing will be advantageous

1 **Project In-Charge**
- 23 to 35 years old, Male
- Engineering & Architecture Graduate
- Experience in site supervision works necessary
- Experience in stone installation works preferred

Send resumé with 2x2 photo to
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San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. (632) 7263637 or 38
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN HOSPITALS & CLINICS *in Madison, Wisconsin*
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E-Mail: iqmancdo@cfsharp.com

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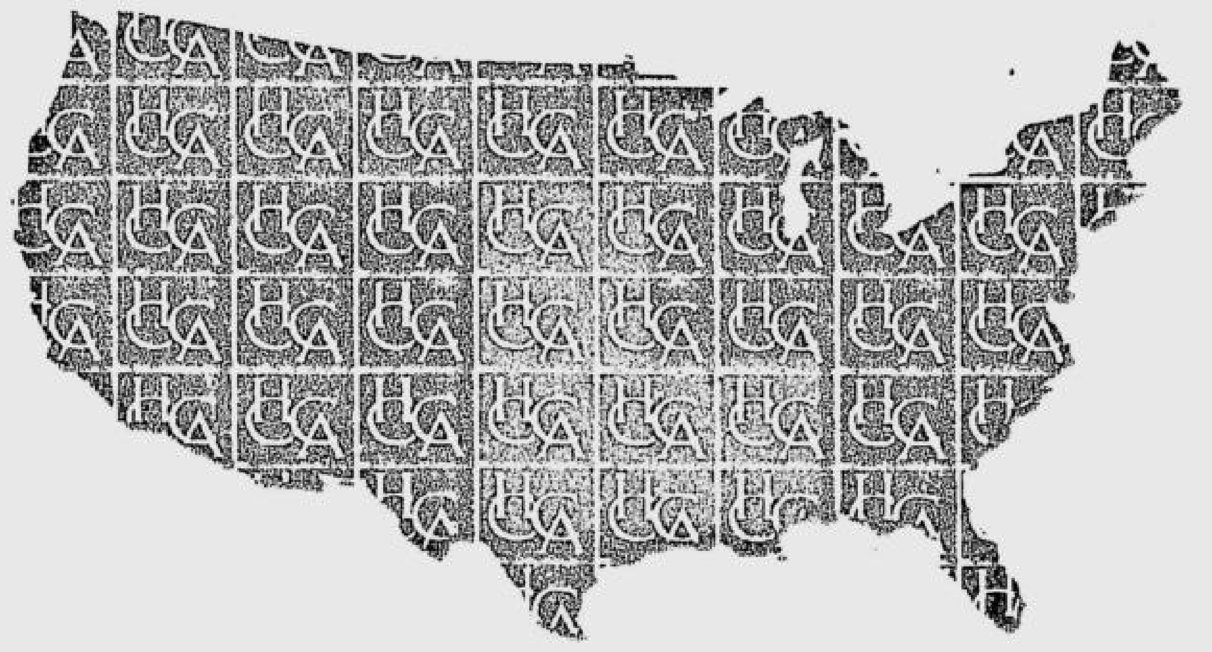

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3. fluent in **English** and has what it takes to successfully satisfy HCCA's hiring standards
4. **determined** to seize this opportunity

Then bring your:
1. resume with board ratings & results (if any) of the ff: CGFNS / NCLEX / TSE / IELTS
2. PRC ID
3. current & previdus employment certificates

Then apply at:
The **POEA Government Placement Branch,** Window I Ground Floor Left Wing, Blas F. Ople Bldg (formerly POEA Bldg.) EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City (See **Ms. Blenda, Project Officer** or call **722.1174/75**) or through your local POEA office

POEA Application Forms may also be obtained at:
HCCA Philippines, 33rd Flr Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 63(2)757.1000

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Schedule of Final Interviews by Foreign Principals:

DATE	TIME
Monday, August 30, 2004	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 31, 2004	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 nn
Wednesday September 1, 2004	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 7, 2004	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday, September 10, 2004	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Preliminary Screening & interviews are conducted daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Come and apply at:

AIMS Inc.
Asian International Manpower Services, Inc.
POEA Lic.: POEA-538-LB-042804-R
1653 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
(Fronting Phil. Christian University)
Tel. Nos: 527-4307 / 523-1630 Cell. No. 0919-8680308 Fax No. 303-6031
E-mail Address: aimsmla@manila-online.net Website: www.aimsph.com

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URGENTLY NEEDED:

RADIOGRAPHERS - ALL SPECIALTIES

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Two (2) years of hospital radiology experience required. Registration in radiography with the American Registry Radiologic. Technologists or Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists is required or equivalent.

EDUCATION: Graduation from a professional program in Radiologic Technology, Radiologic Sciences required.

ANESTHESIA TECHNICIANS (3)

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED: Three (3) years of related experience is required.

EDUCATION: High School and successful completion of a formal two (2) years training program in Anesthesiology, Surgical Technology or a related medical field such as Respiratory Therapy or Nursing is required

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS (3)
(Invasive and Non-Invasive)

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Four (4) years of related experience in the assigned area. Basic computer skills.

EDUCATION: Completion of accredited program in cardiovascular technology, cardiac ultrasound technology, or related health care field after High School. Registration with the American Society of Cardiovascular Professionals or country-of-origin equivalent.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS (7)

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Two (2) years of Clinical Laboratory experience consistent with KFSH standards as a Medical Technologist in the assigned discipline Registration as a Medical Technologist, or Clinical Laboratory Specialist with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists on equivalent body in country of origin is required.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY TECHNOLOGISTS

With relevant experience in the field.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS: must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, diploma and transcript of records, board license/certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous/current supervisor. No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. Passport size picture, between 8-4 PM or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist.

REPRESENTATIVES OF KFSH-RIYADH WILL CONDUCT INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2004.

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MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW I
Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg
(formerly POEA Bldg.) Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

NOTE: MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.
Arrange in a cream folder all xerox copies chronologically in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements. Bring original documents arranged in similar manner for verification.

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UNDP

The CBRED (Philippines : Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the posts of **MSC Coordinator; MSC Policy, Institutional Development and Financing Specialist; MSC Information and Promotion Specialist; MSC Technical Support Specialist; and MSC Administrative Assistant** to be based at the DOE Office in Makati City.

MSC Coordinator (National Professional) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activities

1. Ensures that the Market Service Center (MSC) carries out its mandate and achieve its annual goals and objectives;
2. Responsible for the long-term sustainability of the MSC;
3. Ensure that the functions of management (planning, organizing, motivating, staffing and controlling) are implemented in an effective and efficient manner; and
4. Responsible for the approval of all formal communications of MSC with other organizations, as well as projects and contracts that the MSC enters into.

Specific Activities

1. Reviews the continuing suitability and effectiveness of the MSC's capability to achieve its goals and objectives;'
2. Reviews the results of environmental scan to identify opportunities and threats to the attainment of the MSC's mission and goals;
3. Takes the lead in the development of services and products that will provide a stable foundation for the financial sustainability of the MSC;
4. Liaises with clients, project developers and other stakeholders to pursue the realization of the goals, objectives and targets set in the annual business plan;
5. Reviews the performance of critical suppliers of services and products to ensure satisfactory performance of given tasks;
6. Identifies controls and system sensors that will provide early warnings on potential problems;
7. Implements a performance appraisal system to serve as guide for MSC's manpower development program.

Qualifications :

1. Education - University Graduate in Engineering and preferably with a degree in MBA
2. Experience
    a) Minimum of 5 years experience in project development and financial management;
    b) Minimum of 3 years experience in fund sourcing and syndication;
    c) Minimum of 5 years experience in the RE industry;
    d) At least 10 years experience in a senior position in a national/international corporation;
    e) Minimum of 5 years experience in the financing and management of large capital intensive projects;
    f) Experience with or understanding of Non-Utility Generation (NUG) issues particularly in relation to renewable energy project development;
    g) Proven experience as a team builder and leader;
    h) Experience in the preparation of consultant contracts and financial/project proposals;
3. Others
    a) Must have a sizeable network of clients and colleagues in the financial sector developed as a result of past works;
    b) Excellent English communication skills, both written and oral.
    c) Excellent skills in presentations to high level groups such as corporate boards and executives;
    d) Knowledge of rural development issues;
    e) Strong links with the Philippine RE sector.

MSC Policy, Institutional Development and Financing Specialist (National Professional) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activity

1. Provides necessary technical support to the operations of the MSC and in the formulation and implementation of policy, institutional and financing mechanisms and structures for the MSC.

Specific Activities

1. Conducts environmental scan to identify opportunities for project development in the RE sector;
2. Conducts pre-feasibility studies as defined by relevant document of the Management System
3. Coordinates the conduct of feasibility studies;
4. Conducts and/or coordinates market studies to identify potential services and/or products of the MSC;
5. Provides technical support to the operation of the MSC;
6. Provides assistance and support to the MSC Coordinator in promoting financial mechanisms for RE projects developed with the assistance of the MSC;
7. Responsible for the planning, management and maintenance/implementation of CBRED activities aimed at enhancing the delivery and financing mechanism for the deployment of RE projects;
8. Liaises with clients, project developers and other stakeholders to pursue the realization of goals, objectives and targets set in the annual business plan;
9. Reviews the performance of major suppliers of services and products that are crucial in the attainment of the mission statement and annual goals and objectives to ensure that they comply with the expectations of the tasks;
10. Responsible for implementing document control policies for assigned projects;
11. Performs other tasks as may be directed by the MSC Coordinator.

Qualifications :

1. Education - University Graduate in Economics, Business Administration, Banking or Finance or Engineering and preferably with an advance degree in the said field(s)
2. Experience
    a) Proven track record in project management such as in meeting deadlines and timely submission of deliverables;
    b) Proven track record of experience in monitoring, evaluation, and promotion programs;
    c) At least three (3) years experience in project development, design and financing;
    d) At least five (5) years experience in government or industry with a history of program formulation, implementation and management;
    e) Proven track record in rural development extension and program implementation
3. Others
    a) Excellent written communication skills and good oral/presentation skills;
    b) Excellent skills in the use of software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Power Point and MS Project.

MSC Information and Promotion Specialist (National Professional) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activity

1. Provides necessary technical support to the operations of the MSC and the information, education and communication programs of the MSC.

Specific Activities

1. Promotes the MSC services and programs among existing and potential renewable energy project developers;
2. Coordinates the production of educational and information materials relevant to overcoming barriers to renewable energy projects;
3. Undertakes the planning, programming and implementation of information dissemination, educational and promotional activities aimed at technical and non-technical audiences as a means to overcome barriers in the development and implementation of renewable energy projects;
4. Promotes CBRED Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms to project developers and proponents;
5. Identifies and develops services in the field of education and extension-oriented activities that contribute to the revenue of the MSC;
6. Responsible for planning, management, and maintenance/implementation of the CBRED technical information projects to include, among others, the RE Information Exchange System, the RE/MSC Website and RE Green Energy Rating Program;
7. Conducts environmental scan to identify opportunities for project development in the RE sector;
8. Provides inputs to pre-feasibility and detailed feasibility studies as defined by relevant documents of the management system;
9. Conducts and/or coordinates market studies to identify services and/or products of the MSC;
10. Liaises with clients, project developers and other stakeholders to pursue the realization of the goals, objectives and targets set in the annual business plan;
11. Reviews the performance of major suppliers of services and products that are crucial in the attainment of the mission statement and annual goals and objectives of the MSC;
12. Responsible for implementing document control policies for assigned projects;
13. Responsible for implementing policies regarding control of records for assigned projects;
14. Performs other tasks as may be directed by the MSC Coordinator.

Qualifications :

1. Education - A degree in Mass Communication, Business Administration or Engineering and preferably with an advance degree in the said field(s)
2. Experience
    a) Minimum of three (3) years relevant experience in project development and financial management;
    b) About three (3) years experience in marketing of services and carrying out promotions activities;
    c) About three (3) years experience in planning and development of education materials;
    d) About three (3) years experience in rural development and renewable energy marketing and promotions;
    e) About three (3) years experience in rural extension and development projects;
    f) About five (5) years work experience in IT;
    g) Background and experience in renewable energy applications.
3. Others
    a) Excellent written communication skills and good oral/presentation skills;
    b) Ability to understand and communicate technical and financial issues to an audience;
    c) Excellent skills in the use of software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Power Point and MS Project.

MSC Technical Support Specialist (National Professional) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activity

1. Provides technical advice and assistance to the operation of the MSC

Specific Activities

1. Identifies technical information requirements, provides technical advice and establishes information networks to meet the identified requirements;
2. Responsible for the planning, management, and maintenance of CBRED technical information projects to include among others: Resource Inventories throughout the Philippines, RE Engineering Service Industry Development, and Technical Assistance to RE Manufacturers;
3. Conducts environmental scan to identify opportunities for project development in the RE sector;
4. Conducts pre-feasibility studies as defined by relevant document of the management system;
5. Coordinates the conduct of feasibility studies;
6. Conducts and/or coordinates market studies to identify potential services and/or products of the MSC;
7. Liaises with clients, project developers and other stakeholders to pursue the realization of the goals, objectives and targets set in the annual business plan;
8. Reviews the performance of major suppliers of services and products that are crucial in the attainment of the mission statement and annual goals and objectives;
9. Responsible for implementing document control policies for assigned projects;
10. Responsible for implementing policies regarding control of records for assigned projects;
11. Performs other tasks as may be directed by the MSC Coordinator.

Qualifications :

1. Education - A University Degree in Science or Engineering, preferably with an advance degree in the said field(s)
2. Experience
    a) Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience in project development and financial management;
    b) Proven track record in project management especially in meeting deadlines, timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc ;
    c) Minimum of five (5) years experience in government or industry on program formulation, implementation and management;
    d) About three (3) years working experience in renewable energy industry with a broad experience in a range of renewable energy system technologies and grid/off-grid applications;
    e) Proven track record in technology transfer and capacity building for client groups.
3. Others
    a. Excellent written communication skills and good oral/presentation skills;
    b. Excellent skills in the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel, Power Point and MS Project.

MSC Administrative Assistant (Admin Support Personnel) – Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Technical Accountabilities :

General Activity

1. Provides administrative backstopping to the MSC and CBRED Project to ensure the smooth functioning of operations

Specific Activities

1. Establishes administrative systems and procedures consistent with UNDP's national execution mode, in the form of a Manual, for the guidance of project staff, consultants and subcontractors;
2. Carries out various administrative activities; reviews and controls procurement processes;
3. Maintains an active file of all personnel, consultants and subcontractors under the project;
4. Prepares and consolidates the travel plan for the project;
5. Supervises the procurement requirements of the project, in accordance with UNDP guidelines;
6. Prepares and maintains an updated inventory of all supplies and equipment and prepares guidelines for the proper use and maintenance of office equipment and properties;
7. Makes arrangements for the logistical requirements in training, workshops and other Project activities;
8. Assists the project staff, consultants and other project players in various administrative matters, whenever necessary;
9. Provides office software support to the Technical Specialists;
10. Provides secretarial assistance to the MSC Coordinator;
11. Responsible for implementing policies regarding control of records of the MSC;
12. Responsible for implementing document control policies for the MSC Management System;
13. Performs other tasks as may be directed by the MSC Coordinator.

Qualifications :

1. Education - College graduate
2. Experience
    a) At least five (5) years experience as an Administrative Officer in any development project;
    b) Knowledgeable in modern office administration especially in management of office documents and papers;
    c) Knowledgeable of inventory control and procurement procedures;
    d) With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word and MS Excel.
3. Others - Good interpersonal and communications skills

While the CBRED project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 7 September 2004. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. 892-0611 to 25 loc. 275 / 237

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until September 7, 2004.

27 August 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

PERSONNEL MANAGER

(MANILA BASED)

- Preferably Male, not more than 45 years old
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable university
- With at least 2 to 3 years solid working experience in the same capacity preferably in a related industry
- Possess strong leadership skills

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

(MANILA BASED)

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, with pleasing personality, well groomed;
- Holder of a college degree;
- Must have work experience in the same capacity preferably in air, land and sea transport;
- Computer literate, has good communications skills, articulate, excellent phone manners, mature and organized, and can work extended hours.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive and detailed resume' indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials not later than August 31, 2004 to:

P.O. BOX 7748
Domestic Airport Post Office
Metro Manila, Philippines
E-mail: legalpersonnel_7748@yahoo.com
Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A GOOD COMPENSATION PACKAGE AND A POSSIBILITY FOR PROMOTION

WE HAVE JOB OPENINGS FOR THE FF POSITIONS:

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Highly organized and accurate

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Good verbal and written skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Highly organized

50 SERVICE CREWS
30 STORE CASHIERS

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE FEMALE; COLLEGE GRADUATE; WILLING TO WORK LONG & FLEXIBLE HOURS; MUST BE WILLING TO UNDERGO TRAINING. EXPERIENCE IN YOUR FIELD IS AN ADVANTAGE.

Please apply in person at 158 P. Sevilla St., between 6th & 7th Aves. Grace Park, Caloocan City. Bring RESUME w/ 2X2 colored photo.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

Accounting Staff

QUALIFICATION:

- MALE/FEMALE 21 to 28 years old
- At least 1 year experience
- College graduate w/ Accounting background
- Knowledge on receivable is an advantage

Apply personally / send your resumé w/ picture to:

Icthus Steel Inc.
2/F Vista Aldea Bldg.
117 Sampaguita Ave., Mapayapa Vill., Q.C.
Tel. # 932-27-00 / 951-98-08 / 952-41-40

Large non-life insurance agency needs:

ACCOUNTANT

not over 55 years old and with knowledge of insurance salary commensurate with experience/qualifications

Send biodata to:

Code QC 2004-30
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St.
Cubao, Quezon City 1109

Looking for a

POTENTIAL PARTNER ON FARM MANAGEMENT

What we have:

Hectares of fertile soil, good climate, abundance of water in Batangas

What we need:

Agriculturists who will cultivate our land; Broad experience in farming

Call: **886-4006/0919-8519524**

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mossimo kids

NOW HIRING

Exclusive distributor of MOSSIMO KIDS lifestyle collection in the Philippines is now looking for

FASHION DESIGNER

- Female, 20-35 years old
- Fine Arts Grad with knowledge in Fashion Designing
- Has intensive work experience in fashion designing preferably of "Kid's Apparel"
- Computer literate preferably in ADOBE Photoshop & COREL
- Exceptionally creative, updated with the latest trends in clothing

All interested applicants may submit their resumés and sample artworks (personal designs) personally at

Mossimo Kids Apparel, Inc.
20A Kanlaon St., Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 712-9329
and look for Ms. Janet Kiu

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

FASHION DESIGNER

(PART TIME)

To work in holiday edition catalogue 3x a week session after office hours. Will require 2 sessions per project.
25T per project
Please contact Cell No. 0917-5160310
or send resumé at ewearco@hotmail.com

BIM Technologies

A PCB Specialist Company is looking for :

1. **PCB Layout Design Engineer (2 positions)**
    ~ Degree in Electronic Engineering
    ~ at least 5 years work experience in PCB industry
    ~ with leadership qualities and able to work independently
    ~ Protel proficient
2. **Test Card Repair Engineer (4 positions)**
    ~ Degree in Electronics Engineering
    ~ at least 5 years relevant industry work experience
    ~ able to lead and train local technicians and engineers
    ~ able to work independently
    ~ Qmax or Polar proficient
3. **Product Development Executive (2 position)**
    ~ Degree in Electronic Engineering
    ~ at least 5 years work in Semiconductor Test Area
    ~ able to work independently

Pls. Email your Application and Comprehensive Resume' to **gerry.ramos@bimtechnologies.com**

LAWYERS

WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270,000.

Call Joyce 6346487 to 89 for Appointment.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

MSF-Switzerland
(Street Children Project)
1519 F. Benitez St.
Paco, City of Manila 1007
Tel. (+632) 404.20.84
Fax (+632) 526.42.38
msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

Medecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, accredited by the Department of Health (DOH), whose objective is to bring medical aid to population in crisis, is now in need of staff for the Street Children Project in Manila

Two (2) Registered Nurse

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Implementation of street-based and/or community-based health strategies
- Experienced in working with abused children
- With strong background in adolescent reproductive health
- Providing medical consultation and management, health education and counseling
- Collaborating with government hospitals and health centers for medical referral and networking
- Good communication and emphatic skills
- Hardworking and committed to the cause of protecting children's rights
- Can work with initiative but also with multi-disciplinary team setting
- Experienced in working with pyschosocial program, preferred
- Exposure to non governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting
- Computer skills (MS Office), especially word and excel

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents must be mailed and addressed to:

MS. FRAN D. MILLER
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
E-mail: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph
(Only short listed candidates will be notified)
Deadline for Submission: September 15, 2004

JOB OPENING FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Comptencies required:

- **Above-average communication skills in English and Filipino** for drafting various publications, data gathering, and providing technical assistance in the conduct of training, public fora, and special events.
- **Knowledge of new information systems technology** for the continuing development and management of an automated library system, maintenance and updating of computerized directories, maintenance of archival files, photo and video documentation, and computer-based communication system.
- **Creativity and execution skills** for conceptualizing and producing exhibits, brochures, presentation materials and other communication products.

The applicant must be a graduate of a four year course in the field of communication and/or information management; has at least two years of actual work experience preferably (but not exclusively) in a non-profit organization; has a working knowledge of various computer applications; with good work ethics and able to observe company rules and regulations. Application letter with resumé and picture should reach the following addressee not later than September 15, 2004.

The Nominations Committee
Consuelo Foundations, Inc.
27th Floor Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 0702
through mail, fax: 848-0553, or e-mail: jgalvez@consuelo.org

NEEDED URGENTLY

LAWYER

Proficient in written & oral English
At least five (5) years experience in preparation of opinions, pleadings, memoranda and briefs.
Computer literate
Fax comprehensive resumé to:
521-8723
or e-mail to: katapat2@yahoo.com

CAREER EXPO 2004

TRAINING OFFICERS, ONLINE SEARCHERS AND OFFICE STAFF

OPEN TO ALL GRADUATES OR UNDERGRADUATES OF DIFFERENT COURSES LIKE:

Psychology, Dentistry, Paramedic, Med. Tech., PT, OT, Nursing, Pharmacy, Management, Marketing, Economics, Accounting, Pol. Sci., IE, ME, CE, ChE etc.

EX-OFW'S ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

THIS IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVE. Hiring starts 8:00 - 5:00 p.m. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ON AUG. 30-31 & SEPT. 1-4 WILL START IMMEDIATELY at **235C MERCAN BLDG. EDSA EXTENSION PASAY CITY** (walking distance from Edsa LRT & Taft MRT station, beside Allied Bank and Super Bike motors going Roxas Blvd.)

LOOK FOR : MS. BHENG ESTRADA
CLIP THIS AD TO YOUR RESUME

Telemarketing Representative:

Qualifications:
- Excellent English comprehension (both oral and written)
- Telemarketing experience is a plus
- Computer literacy is a must
- College Degree, preferred
- Must be willing to work night shift
    - ➢ Excellent incentive program based on performance.
    - ➢ Interested applicants are encouraged to respond via e-mail.
    - ➢ College level applicants are welcome to apply.

Web Developer:

Qualifications:
- 1 or more years experience in web development and/or design
- Must be knowledgeable in Flash, PHT, PEARL, HTML, CGI
- Experienced in MS-FrontPage 2000 or above, Dream Weaver, etc.
- Web database integration with MySQL or SQL 2000 server.
- XML integration, Java scripting and ASP programming a must
    - ➢ Interested applicants must provide 3 recent demos/projects/websites with Flash animation.
    - ➢ Qualified applicants are called on per project assignments or part-time work.

Please email resumé to jobs@carlintech.com
or fax to 817-2585

NOW HIRING!

PROJECT MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

Male, Civil Engineering / Architecture graduate preferably licensed. Must have 7 years experience in site finishing supervision of houses, offices, restaurants & fit-outs, 3 years of which should be in managerial capacity. Can handle 2 or more projects. Self-disciplined & capable of working under minimal supervision. Will be responsible in estimating & providing shop-drawing project requirements.

We offer a highly attractive compensation package, incentive & bonuses commensurate to performance & opportunities for continuing training and development.

Call 927-3796 / 921-9325 for inquiries & schedule of interview.

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SPI Transact has clearly demonstrated that its time-tested capabilities are effectively adaptable for any kind of transaction processing engagement.

SPI Transact offers a comprehensive range of processing services tailored to meet the specific needs of banks, insurance companies, and mortgage originators as well as businesses in other transaction-intensive industry segments.

To cater to the extensive requirements of our clients, our SPI Transact business unit has an urgent need for qualified and highly motivated applicants for:

PROJECT OFFICERS

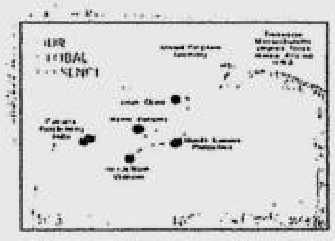
RESPONSIBILITIES:
Leads the team and integrates functional/ operational resources in achieving project goals and implementing project management structure

- Graduate of Computer Science, Management Information Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Statistics, Economics or Management
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply
- Candidates with 6 months to a year of work experience are also invited to apply
- With excellent scholastic records
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Possesses leadership and organizational management abilities
- Has a high level of customer service orientation
- Knowledgeable in computer applications and programming
- Willing to undergo comprehensive management training
- Willing to be assigned in Calamba, Laguna

Qualified and interested applicants are invited to send their CVs to:
SPI HR Office, 2F Sky Freight Bldg., Ninoy Aquino Avenue
corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City

OR you may also send it to r.araga@spitech.com

Please indicate position code on the envelope or in the subject line.
Applicants in the past 6 months need not apply.



spi technologies

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for

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Know what it takes to be a Flight Attendant!
Now is your chance to fly!
Join us in this 3-day seminar workshop…

Date: Sept. 10, 11 & 12, 2004
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Early Wings Rate P3,500.00
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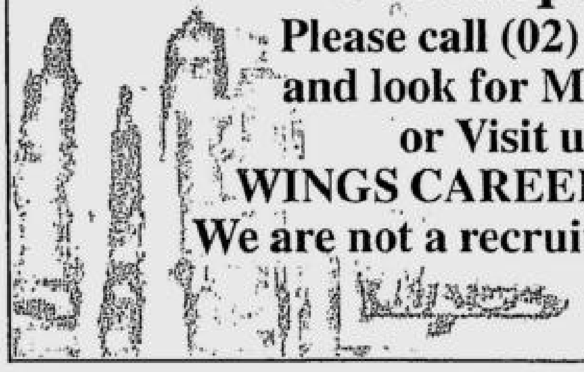
Regular Rates P3,800.00

(registration fee is inclusive of food, lunch, am/pm snacks for 3 days, workshop material, handouts, training kit & certificate of competencies).

Venue: WINGS CAREER CENTER
23/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City



For Inquiries

Please call (02) 889-4647
and look for Mr. Russell
or Visit us at
WINGS CAREER CENTER
We are not a recruitment agency.

Women In Global Synergy

FT
FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, is looking for dynamic individuals to become part of its IT support team. The ideal applicant must meet the attributes and formal skills enumerated below and should be able to start as soon as possible

IT SUPPORT STAFF

- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Programming or an IT-related course
- At least two years desktop and systems support experience (Windows 98/NT)
- Excellent general IT awareness (networking, PABX administration and PC troubleshooting skills)
- Proficient in web publishing systems and technologies
- Previous IT helpdesk experience for a multinational company an advantage
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing and able to work on shifts and weekends as may be required

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Monday, September 6, 2004, to The HR and Administration Manager at the address below:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Incomplete applications will not be processed

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For its continuous expansion program

One of the leading restaurants in the country that has kept the legendary "Sarap to the Bones" delicious Filipino tradition has career opportunities for its soon to open branches in **Batangas, Laguna and Metro Manila areas.**

Branch Managers – (BM)

☑ Graduate of BSHRM and other related courses
☑ 5 years working experience in restaurant operations; 3 years should be in Supervisory level
☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Kitchen Supervisors – (KS)

☑ Graduate of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses
☑ 2 years working experience; 1 year as Asst. Kitchen Supervisor
☑ Has knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management

Dining Supervisor – (DS)

☑ Graduate of BSHRM or other related courses
☑ 2 years working experience as an Asst. Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter.
☑ With good customer relations skills

Master Cook – (MC)

☑ Had previous formal or vocational training in cooking
☑ With 3-5 years working experience
☑ With knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

Bookkeeper – (BK)

☑ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
☑ At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping, preferably in restaurant setting
☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Banquet and Sales Coordinator – (BSC)

☑ Not more than 25 years old
☑ Graduate of BS Marketing, HRM or other related courses
☑ 1 year experience in restaurant marketing operations, store opening activities and Party Hosting
☑ Has solid experience in Local Sales Marketing (LSM), from conceptualization to post evaluation
☑ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
☑ Must have a pleasing personality with good English communication skills

Dining Trainor – (DT)

☑ Male, at least 25 years old, 5"6 in height and with pleasing personality
☑ Graduate of BSHRM or any related course
☑ With at least 3 years experience in dining restaurant operations
☑ Must have knowledge in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
☑ Possess effective oral and written communication skills
☑ Must be proficient in conducting training to different level of participants
☑ Must be willing to do provincial assignments from time to time

Kitchen Trainor – (KT)

☑ Male or Female, at least 25 years old
☑ Graduate of Nutrition and Dietetics, Food and Technology or any related courses
☑ With hands on experience in cooking and with at least 3 years experience in restaurant operations
☑ Must have knowledge in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
☑ Possess effective oral and written communication skills
☑ Must be proficient in conducting training to different level of participants
☑ Must be willing to do provincial assignments from time to time

Franchise Marketing Officer – (FMO)

☑ Graduate of BS Marketing, HRM or other related courses
☑ Male or Female, at least 25 years old
☑ 1 year experience in restaurant marketing operations, LSM program and store opening activities
☑ Has solid experience in Local Sales Marketing (LSM) from conceptualization to post evaluation and coordination
☑ Proficient in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
☑ Must have a pleasing personality, with good English communication skills

Interested parties may apply in person or mail their application letters with their resume and ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
Max's Franchising, Inc.
Penthouse, Max's Baclaran Bldg.
Roxas Boulevard cor. A. Guarra St.
Parañaque, Metro, Manila
Please indicate the code of the position you are applying for

Should I sue my company?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I think I have a good discrimination lawsuit against my company. But I once saw a coworker sue and lose everything—his job, home and marriage. Is there any way to tell when it's worth the risk?
A Boy Named Sue?

Speaking of lawsuits, did you hear about the Scottish woman who recently sued her country club? She'd been golfing and nailed one of her drives—right into a tree. The ball came back at her like a boomerang and hit her squarely in the eye. Sadly, surgeons weren't able to save it.

Her experience gives a whole new meaning to golf handicap. Keep that in mind, because while you hope in a lawsuit to hit a hole in one, you're just as likely to end up in the rough. Use the following questions to investigate the merits of your suit. Also check out Robert Gregory's book, "Your Workplace Rights" (Amacom, 1999).

Is there precedent for your suit? A lawyer I know says his clients always ask, "Can I sue?" To which he responds, "Of course you can, but that's not the important question. The real question is, 'Will I win?'" You can judge your chances of success by exploring the precedents for your claim. Have others sued successfully with a similar claim? Is there a law that clearly supports it?

Are you prepared for repercussions? Life is apt to change once you file a lawsuit. Your company may decide to retaliate, so ask to see your personnel file to see what "dirt" they have on you that might get used against you. And your coworkers may turn. Even those who claim to be with you now may change their minds when asked to testify in court. So make sure you're willing to man the barricades alone before proceeding with a suit.

Do you have a sound ally to bring your case? You'll have to file your suit through either a private attorney, a government agen cy or a union. Private attorneys are often more successful and faster, but government agencies and unions shouldn't be overlooked. Research how each of these have handled similar claims in the past and go for the best track record you can afford.

How much time and money can you afford to lose? Heed the lawsuit rule of thumb: at minimum, your suit will take twice as long and cost twice as much you think. At maximum, it will become a life-sucking black hole. Are you prepared to let it call the shots for a long time?

What's next? Chances are (despite your rosy projections) you'll still need a job when the lawsuit's over. So don't make the suit your entire life. Save time and energy for networking for your next opportunity.

I have a great deal of respect for people willing to go through the pain of a lawsuit to improve working conditions for others. At the same time, it's important to remember that pursuing an eye for an eye can also leave you blind.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Have you ever thought about suing your company?

—Weekly, 12.2 percent
—Once or twice, 39.5 percent
—Never, 48.2 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

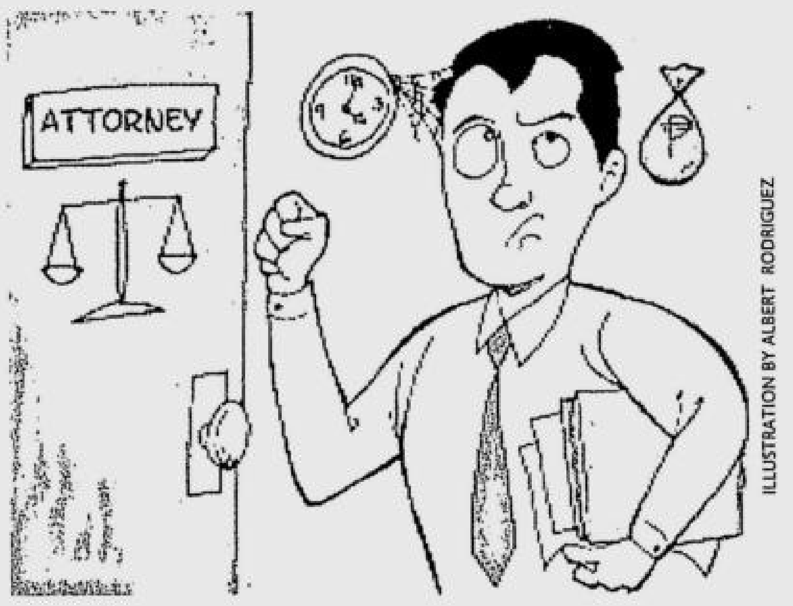

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Looking for your dream job?

JOIN "My Trabaho," a public service program to help people at work and jobseekers find their dream jobs.

Send a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a bio-data and one 1X1 photo through postal mail to **"My Trabaho at Job Market,"** Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Or e-mail to **peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph**. You can also handcarry your letter and biodata to any of Inquirer's Classified Ads branch offices in Metro Manila.

On Sept. 22 and Dec. 22, the next batches (30 letters per batch) will be picked (by drawing at random the letters). These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a two-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc. From these 30 letter senders, 10 will be selected by career mentors to be given the following assistance: a) Weekly career coaching sessions good for two months by a trained and qualified career mentor; b) Two outfits suitable to the targeted job of the applicant; c) A makeover by a reputable grooming salon to prepare him/her for his/her first job interview; d) Free attendance in a two-day Resume Preparation/Interview Seminar; e) Cash of P5,000 to be used in going to interviews, making letters of application and resumés, photos and other expenses that will be incurred in their job hunt for two months. For more information, call (632) 897-8808 local 237.

'I always get dumped'

From page 10

shoes. Unpleasant body odor, as well as heavy scents, can turn off interviewers.

Finally, exude confidence, energy and charm all throughout the interview. But remember that you can go by with charm for only a few seconds. After that, you have to make sense if you want to get hired.

Quote for the Week

"You must come to the interview prepared—physically, physiologically, and mentally. It pays to know what the job requires, the kind of company you are applying with, its products, brands, major company officers, etc. Practice with your responses to interview questions. Come to the interview with the right frame of mind and the confidence that you will make it. (How to Get a Job, by Ernie Cecilia, 2000.)

(Ernie Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and HR consulting firm. He is a former president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (1999). He wrote four career books, including "How to Get a Job," which are available at popular bookstores. E-mail him at erniec@edsa mail.com.ph.)

How to use workplace communications effectively

From page 12

message to the whole world (at least everyone having access to your e-mail system). If you wouldn't want the president of your company to read it, don't send it.

- Think about what the recipient will want to do with your message. Will he want to forward it to someone for action? Make that easy for him. That may mean separate notes for separate topics.
- Be considerate of the recipient. Don't overload messages with attachments that are troublesome to handle and that can fill up someone's mailbox. Don't keep adding to and forwarding a note to extremes. Sometimes it's better to write a new note.

In summary, choose carefully the communication mode you use: face-to-face, by telephone, by e-mail, or in writing. Think about the feelings involved and the possible impact on your working relationships. Be considerate of the recipient.

(Reprinted with permission from hr-info.com. For more information e-mail Daniel Hissong at dhisso@ev1.net.)

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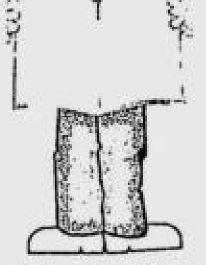

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INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN SEND RESUMÉ TO:
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ACQUISITION SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an **ACQUISITION SPECIALIST** who will be responsible for the proper administration, timely completion, and prompt close-out of acquisition and assistance instruments managed by its different project offices. The successful candidate will be providing recommendations and/or alternatives as to the kind of acquisition or award for proposed activities of the project offices depending on the intent and level of control. He/She will have to ensure that the scopes of work for proposed activities are contractible and have complete documentation (scopes of work, budgets, waivers of competition or source and/or origin, if required) for acquisition/assistance purposes. The incumbent will be preparing solicitation documents ensuring that these are advertised where applicable. He/She will be required to participate in technical evaluation meetings as representative of the Contracting Officer where he/she will provide guidance on acquisition/contracting regulations and will ensure compliance with procurement integrity rules. The incumbent is also responsible for doing cost/price analyses to determine if costs in budgets are fair, reasonable, and realistic. He/She is also responsible for negotiations with the organizations on costs / prices, terms, etc. until submission of final / best offer. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in fields like in accounting, finance, business or pre-law.

Completion of post graduate study is desirable. At least four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition, contracting, and assistance gained from an international or donor organizations highly preferred. Good knowledge of international and local business practices and detailed knowledge of local market pricing customs and practices are required. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) and good computer skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than September 3, 2004.**

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST**. The successful candidate will serve as one of the Project Management Specialists in the organization. The incumbent is a professional level employee who provides assistance and serves as advisor to senior-level staff in the development, management, and evaluation of various projects particularly those development activities on infrastructure and education. The position manages one or more projects assuring that all activities are being carried out towards attainment of goals and objectives of the organization. The incumbent is required to identify possible deficiencies in the implementation of the different activities and provide recommendations on necessary actions to be taken by the organization and contractors to prevent and/or correct these deficiencies. He/she conducts follow up and monitoring to make sure that all required activities are properly and timely implemented and consequently, prepares required reports and documentation. Possession of a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or related field, with substantial concentration on project management is required. Post graduate degree is highly desirable. Six to eight years of responsible experience in engineering and project management or related work. Experience in drawing up contract scopes of work, and managing contractors is desirable. Must have excellent command of Pilipino and English languages, both written and spoken. Fluency in Visayan dialect is desirable. Must have or must quickly develop a substantial level of expertise on how to effectively operate in Mindanao; a solid understanding of the economic, social, cultural, political, ethnic and other factors that influence the pace of economic development in Mindanao is essential; a working knowledge of the Philippine Government's operational procedures is desirable; an understanding of a foreign assistance organization's development perspectives, objectives and priorities for Mindanao is required. Excellent human relations, interpersonal and team skills are required to establish and maintain contacts with middle to senior level officials of the Philippine Government and local government and the organization's contractors, sub-contractors and grantees. Must be proficient in the use of computers.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health/life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

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Must be able to supervise wood working operations and have woodworking experience in the operation of wood working equipment such as jointers, shapers, four sides moulder, finishing sanders etc.

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Architectural or Engineering graduate (license not required)
Will be responsible in estimating project requirements
Experience in site finishing supervision of houses & offices
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Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license

• Area Account / Sales Executives

College Graduate and experience in sales of architectural products such as flooring, doors and windows, lights, etc.
Will be assigned specified areas for sales saturation
Must be hardworking and work with minimum supervision
Computer literate in MS WORD and EXCEL
Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license

• Accounting Assistant

College Graduate, major in accounting
Min experience in general accounting
Knowledge of MS WORD, EXCEL and MYOB

• Company Driver

Experience in driving for company officers using vehicles with conventional & automatic transmission
Must be knowledgeable in driving in and out of Metro Manila
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Interested parties may send their application by snail mail, email, fax or delivered in person.

Address : 7828 Beachwood St., Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque
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HR Department
PILIPINAS MAKRO , INC.
Km 21 East Service Road, SSHW Sucat, Muntinlupa City

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- Must have strong Technical Skills, Inter-personal skills, and an ability to think out-of-the-box.

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or SEND YOUR RESUMES WITH ID PICTURE TO: hrmakati@yahoo.com
or MAIL TO: P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City

Workplace safety is a must for businesses

By Candy G. Villanueva

MOORE

ABADILLA

PHOTOS BY CANDY G. VILLANUEVA

IS YOUR workplace safe? Maybe you think that since you are enclosed in the safety of the four walls of your cubicle, you're far from hazards most employees like construction workers are exposed to everyday. But just as these employees are susceptible to occupational hazards, so are you. You are just as prone to tripping on the fire escape, muscuskeletal disorders and occasional cuts and sprains.

Is your company doing anything about this? In the Philippines, many companies are guilty of poor safety practices that result in an alarming statistics of injury and even death cases.

Need for safety

In year 2000, research shows that there were roughly 70,000 reported cases of injuries in the workplace. Employees commonly experience cuts, sprains, strains, slips and falls while in the workplace. In industrial sites, there were even disturbing cases of electrocution and chemical burns. Serious injuries and even fatalities are not alien in certain work environments with extremely high-temperatures, harsh chemicals and high fluid pressures.

In spite of this disturbing fact, the numbers still seem to grow. This is because a culture of safety is not properly instilled in companies and employees. In most organizations, unsafe behaviors, unsafe conditions and no respect for safety procedures are common. Because most people neglect these key issues, accidents happen.

Negligence

"Accidents are usually based on unsafe acts. People just neglect procedures or the instructions that are given to them," shares Ramon Abadilla, Managing Director of DuPont Far East, Inc. Philippines. DuPont Far East, Inc. Philippines has a consultancy arm, DuPont Safety Resources, dedicated to instill fundamental, systematic and safety values in the workplaces while slashing costs from poor safety practices and improving bottom lines.

This attitude of carelessness and neglect is something that needs to be changed stresses Abadilla. "You can solve this by creating a culture of making sure that people understand what is at stake." Abadilla stresses this because local companies are beset with increasing workers' compensation insurance costs and constantly threatened by workplace fatality, which often leads to demoralized employees, low productivity and worse, quick turnovers.

Benefits

Abadilla believes that a safety-focused work environment nurtures trust, encourages employee responsibility, and promotes accountability in every company. With happy, healthy and secure employees, the company ultimately benefits. "Aside from safety being a prerequisite in any environment, it also produces business value. Decreased costs and improved bottom lines are a direct result of a safe working environment," adds Abadilla.

More and more companies are realizing the importance of improving workplace safety. "We are leveraging our knowledge to provide comprehensive safety offering to governments and industries globally, including the Philippines," declares Roger Moore, President of DuPont Safety Resources Asia Pacific. By teaching the Filipinos that safety is everyone's responsibility and is an essential condition of employment, DuPont hopes to create a paradigm shift in the mindset of Philippine businesses, which will eventually spur economic growth and development.

'I always get dumped'

From page 12

petencies that can help you do the job. The interviewer also wants to see whether you have the motivation to do the job. He or she will try to size up your potential to assume other jobs in the company. Likewise, he or she will also visualize if you will be able to relate well with the group you are possibly joining or whether you will fit at all in the context of the company's culture or values.

You must always prepare for the interview. Find out about the company and the position before the interview. You are expected to talk 70 percent to 80 percent of the time in an interview. Therefore, you must have the energy, tact and alertness to respond to all questions. Talk about your competencies, describe your work experiences and convince the interviewer/s that you are best suited for the vacant job.

Preparation

Try to anticipate the questions that will be asked by the interviewer/s, especially during the DI. You must rehearse before actual interviews—alone or with friends. This will bolster your confidence. Prepare a 60-second sound byte, or a response to a commonly asked question such as, "Please tell us about yourself" or "Why do you think you deserve to have this job?"

Many job applicants never go beyond the PI stage. This stage is where job applicants must be able to create a good first impression. If they cannot impress the interviewer at this stage, they get knocked out right away. At this stage, the interviewer will assess job applicants in terms of impact and communication. You can create a positive impact with your grooming, posture, alertness, and overall aura. The way you communicate will also determine whether you will pass the PI stage.

Since you are applying for a customer-related position, you must have a pleasing personality, the knack to serve and even go out of your way to satisfy customers. A bubbly, outgoing, and gregarious bearing displayed during the interview can help the interviewer decide to move you to the next step of the hiring process. If you have a shabby appearance or a sad or grumpy countenance, you could get knocked out at this stage.

Communication skills

The other dimension is communication. You must speak simple and grammatical English, as it is the language in the corporate world. Aside from correct grammar, proper enunciation is also expected, especially from knowledge workers or from customer-related workers. When the interviewer asks questions in Filipino, you are expected to reply in Filipino. Communication also means your ability to understand and convey ideas clearly and concisely.

If you pass the PI stage, you will be interviewed by the HR manager and the requisitioning line manager/s. This next stage, the DI will determine whether you will get the job or not. The HR manager and line manager/s may choose to interview the job applicants individually or as a panel. Usually, the panel interviews several job applicants vying for the same position—one after another. The panel interview is more commonly used to save time and allow interviewers to share and compare their observations. Often, the interviewers discuss their impressions and decide who to hire immediately after the panel interview.

You might find the panel depth interview more stressful, as each interviewer can complement each other, make follow-up questions, and probe deeper into your strengths, weaknesses, motivation, or suitability. You must remain calm, focused, and honest with your responses.

Good grooming

Most job applicants feel nervous during interviews. You can lessen nervousness through preparation, rehearsal, and advance information about the interviewers. Lying or giving false information can be readily noticed by expert interviewers and can make an applicant even more nervous.

Grooming during interviews is important. Business attire (semi-formal) is recommended. Avoid loud-colored shirts or dresses. Limit jewelry to six or eight pieces (for women). Personal hygiene is a must. Wear neat and clean clothes and have clean nails, teeth, hair and shoes. Unpleasant body

I ALWAYS/P. 8

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Please email your application letter and resumé to

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Interested applicants should mail detailed resumé, cover letter and transcript of record at the following address:
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Unit UG37 Cityland Pioneer Cond.
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

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- Excellent skills in English usage, grammar, punctuation and style
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For Immediate Hiring!

SHOWROOM SALES EXECUTIVES

Male, 22-30 years old, pleasant personality, fluent in English, with significant exp. in retail selling.

STORE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Female, 30 & below, Acctg. Grad. with cashiering and inventory exp.

For inquiries call Ms. Bel at 681-2866/93

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are assertive (but not intimidating)
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like to meet new friends
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- College/University graduate of a 4-year course
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Come and see us in person with your comprehensive resume and 2x2 picture

Exam and interviews are held from
Monday to Friday between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm (ONLY) at
Unit 1706 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
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HIRING : PRODUCTION MANAGERS AND PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS
for seafood export processing plant

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum 1 year work experience in seafood industry, preferably with tuna fish from reputable processing & export companies.
- Experience in frozen tuna seafood export processing, skilled with hands-on knowledge on cutting & production operations
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- Computer skills an advantage
- Willing to travel and be deployed on assignments

❑ **Applicants from General Santos City, Davao City, all seafood producing regions, including Manila, are welcome.** Interview schedules & venues for shortlisted candidates will be advised at a later date and will be conducted at their respective provinces.

❑ Interested parties can send their applications with resumé/biodata and passport size photos by post or via e-mail to IanHFC:

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THE HRD DEPARTMENT
GLOBAL CITY INNOVATIVE COLLEGE 3rd Floor Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City Tel. No: 757-55-88 / 818-09-45 to 46 Website : www.gcic.ph Email: gcic@mydestiny.net Text : 0918-9247810

An NGO is urgently looking for a
Water and Sanitation Engineer
With extensive experience in the manufacture of red clay ceramic filter for household water treatment.

Applicants must have skills in:
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- action research
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- team work

Please send your resumé to:
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P-3 Minnesota Mansion
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URGENTLY NEEDS BUYERS

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- Computer literate
- Articulate, hardworking & highly organized
- Can stand pressures that comes with a dynamic organization
- Exposure to related industries an advantage but not required

Interviews (by appointment) will be at SM Corporate Offices Bldg. E 1000 Bay Boulevard SM Central Business Park Bay City, Pasay City ; bring resume with 2x2 photo.

For scheduling, please call telephone number
(02) 831-1888 local 5458 or 5461

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With the drive to work in an entrepreneurial environment

Job Responsibilities:
To steer the company towards a solid leadership position in the industry through proactive marketing strategies and initiatives

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Promote a strong positive image of the company to its target market and the community through advertising and promotions sales and merchandising and public relations.

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KRA's include recommendation and establishment of effective marketing policies. Identification of the needs of the market through the conduct of regular researches, preparation and implementation of the actual sales performance and conceptualization of regular programs and activities aimed at strengthening the marketing and image of the company.

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NEW BARBIZON FASHION, INC.
#401, VFP Bldg. 2, Veterans Road,
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Fax 02-8370393

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- A minimum of 3 years sales experience preferably in the airconditioning business or allied industries
- Mature, aggressive and achievement oriented
- Able to deal and negotiate with senior levels of management
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- In possession of own car

Please send your resumé and 1x1 picture thru mail or email to the following address:

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cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City
Email: rccmktg@mozcom.ocm

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☐ Willing to accept assignment abroad.

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☐ Knowledge in AutoCAD or Intellicad is a must.
☐ Engineering or Architecture graduate is an advantage.

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Unit 402 Jocfer Bldg., Commonwealth Ave.
Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City
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E-mail: pyramid@pldtdsl.net

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MARKETING ASSISTANTS

Graduate of any 4-year business related course; male or female preferably with knowledge in non-life insurance industry; service oriented; above average oral & written communication skills; experience in sales is an advantage.

Interested applicants may personally submit or email their resumés, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo to:

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8/F Insular Life Bldg., 6781 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
P.O. Box 2041 MAKATI CENTRAL
Email address: sayoc@insulargen.com.ph

ISO-certified Multi-national Company engage in manufacturing various housing fixtures, committed to quality service and customer satisfaction. Awarded as Top Sectoral Export Performance Citation for Furniture Category are in need of the following personnel.

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- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
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Company Nurse

- Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of BS Nursing
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- People oriented and can work on extended hours

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(urgent hiring)

- Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age
- High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License (R Code-6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- At least Vocational Course Graduates
- Male between 20-35 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With knowledge in forklift repair and maintenance
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Forklift Mechanic

(urgent hiring)

- Male between 20-35 years old
- Must be an Auto-Diesel Mechanic graduate
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- Good moral character
- Fresh graduate are welcome to apply

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
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You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address.
For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-0849 to 51. Look for Ronalyn Estorninos
or Mr. Joel Tecson or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@pacific.net.ph

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A Joint Venture Manufacturing Firm

Needs

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING MANAGER

We are a manufacturing firm based in Clark Special Economic Zone. The Finance/Accounting Manager we need is a CPA with accounting and finance related experience. Administrative and organizational skills are very important qualifications. He or she must be willing to work in Clark Field, Pampanga, where our main office is located.

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The Distribution Manager will be responsible for managing a retail sales organization with about 100 personnel. His/her principal responsibilities are to identify and operate strategic retail locations, deliver the required sales volume, and manage the sales people. Male or female, the candidate will be based in Metro Manila.

Salary for either positions is negotiable, but minimum is P25K a month. If interested, you may send your resumé with picture to Fax No. 817-9665. Address to: Clark Manufacturer, Ref. Finance/Accounting Manager or Distribution Manager as the case may be.

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Established Filipino-owned company in Market engaged in the distribution of the most advanced chemical and industrial batteries from the USA in its effort to expand its product line, is in urgent need of professionals and skilled personnel for our expansion.

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Responsible in developing/handling sales and marketing of imported industrial batteries. A leader who will ensure that sales and marketing programs are implemented.

- Preferably 25 yrs. old and above
- Graduate of Engineering course.
- With keen interest in sales & marketing
- Exposure in selling industrial batteries is an advantage
- Can effectively execute sales program
- Can handle both office & field works
- Must be aggressive, self-motivated & people oriented individual

Interested applicants may send resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

#31 Gov. Pascual Avenue cor. Valdez St. Catmon,
Malabon City
e-mail at inajiffy@surfshop.net.ph
Fax 285-9973

ACCOUNTING STAFF

☐ Male/Female
☐ 3 years minimum experience
☐ Sufficient skills in accounting supervision, payroll Preparation, Tax reporting

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Unit 42 Legaspi Suites, 178 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
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MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- MALE/FEMALE 22-30 YEARS OLD
- WITH EXPERIENCE IN FOOD SERVICE OR FOOD HANDLING
- HRM GRADUATE IS AN ADVANTAGE

COOK / ASSISTANT COOK
- MALE, 23-32 YEARS OLD
- WITH AT LEAST 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN A RESTAURANT OR HOTEL

CASHIER
- FEMALE 21-28 YEARS OLD
- WITH AT LEAST 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS CASHIER
- HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN P.O.S. AND ADDING MACHINE

MARKETING MANAGER
- FEMALE 23-30 YEARS OLD
- MARKETING GRADUATE OR ANY RELATED COURSE
- WITH AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING AND ADVERTISING
- MUST BE PROFICIENT IN BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
- WILLING TO WORK ON EXTENDED HOURS
- MUST BE COMPUTER LITERATE
- WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY

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HR ASSISTANT
- FEMALE 22-28 YEARS OLD
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- WITH AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING HR FUNCTIONS
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- MUST BE COMPUTER LITERATE

FOOD SERVERS
- MALE 18-28 YEARS OLD
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- AT LEAST COLLEGE LEVEL

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- WITH 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE SAME FIELD

Submit / Send your resumé with recent photo at:
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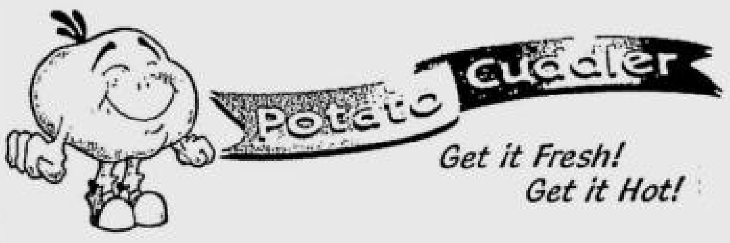
South Triangle, Quezon City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Male or Female, Accounting, Marketing and Management Students

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How to use workplace communications effectively

By Doug Hissong

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

EFFECTIVE day-to-day communications are certainly a key to a successful organization. The way employees communicate with each other and with customers affects not only the efficiency of work but also the working environment, morale, and interpersonal relationships. There's a lot more to communication than information transfer: Feelings are involved. Let's look at our two most extensively used communication methods.

Telephone communication

We do a lot of communicating by telephone. We need to recognize that talking on the phone is less personal than talking face-to-face. There's no visual component. We hear what he says but can't pick up any clues from his face. Gesturing is mostly was ted, although what you're doing as you talk can have some effect on how you sound. There's no opportunity for touching. When there's a language barrier, like when the person has an accent much different from yours or your language is not his primary language, it's more difficult to understand the person when you can't watch him talk. You may not think you can lip read, but it definitely helps.

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Telephone tips

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- Return phone calls promptly. Not doing so sends a bad message.
- Think about whether to leave a message or call back. Don't leave a message if it's a subject that warrants a live conversation. Leave a message if it will enable him to prepare for the conversation, get the information you're requesting, and maybe eliminate another call.
- If you leave a message include your phone number. Make it easy for the person to reply.
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Electronic communication

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But there are also some potential pitfalls to electronic communication, and we need to be careful about these. There is some tendency to overuse e-mail, perhaps because we're enamored with it or it's fun. Sometimes it's not the most efficient way to communicate. People spend more time typing out a message than it would take to make a phone call. People send e-mails to others just down the hall, when they could more easily talk to them in person. At least one survey indicated that e-mail is making offices less, not more, productive.

Pitfalls of e-mail

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The easy forwarding feature of e-mail is dangerous. If a message contains something negative about someone else, the message can easily be forwarded to that person. Or it can be forwarded to someone whose perspective is so different that he will get a completely different message from it.

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- Try to keep your e-mail messages as "friendly"" as your personal and phone conversations. Remember "please" and "thank you."
- Don't respond to an e-mail without thinking through the ramifications of your reply. If it has made you mad, give yourself a cooling off period. Print the message, read it again, discuss it with someone, then think about the best way to reply.
- Think about inputs and approvals you need before sending an e-mail. You can route a copy to someone for comments or to your boss for approval.
- Before you hit the "send" button, look over your message, think how the recipient will react to it, and remember that you are in effect broadcasting this

HOWTO/P.8

'I always get dumped'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I AM SINGLE, 24 years old and have tried applying for positions such as service crew, telemarketer, cashier and sales clerk. I have accumulated a total of 80 job applications since I was 16 but I have never succeeded in getting a job, except when an influential person backed me up.

I am jobless again and bothered by the fact that I have always been "dumped" after the final interview. Why can't I get a job? By the way, I think I have good looks, too, although my friends tell me that I lack "sex appeal" or charm. Can you give me some tips on how I can be more effective in looking for a job, especially on how to pass the final interview?

Miss Dumped

Let me first congratulate you for your perseverance in looking for a job. Not too many people have that patience to go on after 80 failed job applications. However, it takes more than patience and perseverance to get a good job.

You seem to focus on customer-related jobs such as those of service crew, telemarketer, cashier and sales clerk. I will assume that these are the jobs you want and are comfortable doing. It also seems that your good looks is an asset to you, particularly in these kinds of jobs. That you have reached the final interview in the job application process tells me that you have caught the attention of the hiring officers with your resumé. I shall therefore focus my advice on helping you hurdle interviews.

Interview process

You might have noticed that the first interview is usually done by the Human Resources or recruitment staff. This is called the preliminary interview (PI). The interviewer decides at this stage of the hiring process who among the job applicants will move on for further interviews (in-depth interviews or DI) by the HR manager and the requisitioning manager. During the PI stage, the questions asked by the interviewer are relatively simple and meant to verify the accuracy of the resumé or to get vital information not found in the resumé. At this stage, the interviewer will try to make a match between you and the job. He or she wants to know your com-

IALWAYS/P.10

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

What's inside

Workplace safety is a must for businesses p. 10

Should I sue my company? p. 8

Please and thank you

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

A FEW years into my career as mainstream journalist I had a boss (let's call him "Mr. JP") who impressed me as one of the best general managers I had ever known. A democratic one—to say the least—Mr. JP knew how to say "please" and "thank you."

"Please" and "thank you" are for everybody, not just for kindergarten kids who are taught to be pleasing and well mannered. And when spoken by our elders and superiors, we know that they are not merely genteel gestures but are words that flow out of a spring of humility. Humility reflects gratitude in the soul. A soul that is grateful acknowledges that whatever it has comes from a power much greater than itself.

A humble boss is a grateful boss, and sees even his subordinates as blessings and gifts to be appreciated as coworkers. Because he recognizes the Giver of his talents as Someone Much Higher than himself, he respects, yes, but is not awed by worldly authority, including his own. Thus, his good manners are not reserved only for people he can bow to—like those who may be richer or more powerful than he is. Nor are they employed as honey to attract good-looking and/or talented people he can use to cover up his inadequacies and fulfill his ambitions.

The influence of a humble boss extends far beyond the workplace. The boss is a teacher, and his humility makes him a master, a shaper of future leaders. Mr. JP is an example of a humble boss. Now, several superiors later, I scan my memory and find him as the best general manager I've ever worked with—and as the mentor who unwittingly introduced me to the depths of the words "please" and "thank you." (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

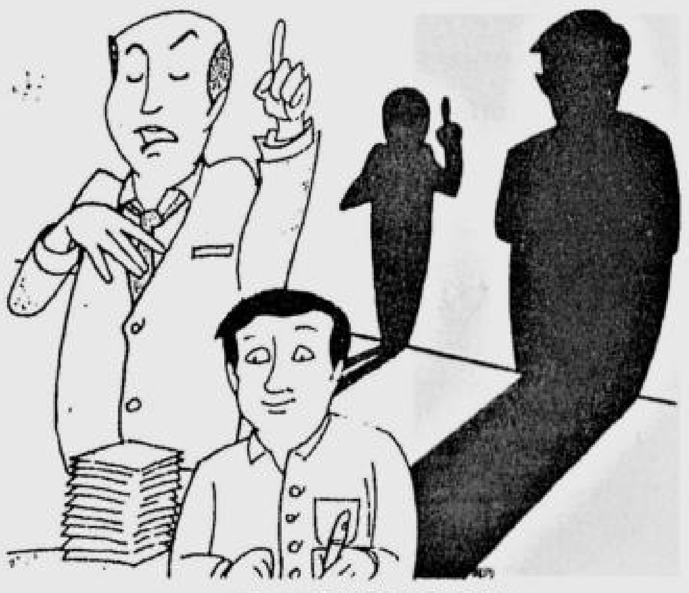
ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel. Lk 14: 1. 7-14

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Humility at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

I HAVE yet to find a company, which pays its skilled workers much higher than its managers and top executives. But I think that the industrial and business world would consider my quest ridiculous, to say the least. The prevalent norm in business is to give the kind of work or service its corresponding value and compensation. Management skills, which call for greater intellectual and psychological learning and abilities, are generally valued higher than manual and technical skills. Thus, in a workplace, the managers can rightfully "exalt" themselves, while the ordinary workers would just be content in "humbling themselves" in their place of work. When can the "humble, ordinary workers" exalt themselves in the sense Jesus points out in today's Gospel?

The "rank-and-file" workers or those considered, as the "labor" sector as contrasted to the "management" group, need not look at themselves with a sense of low self-esteem simply because they are at the lowest level of the hierarchy. They should realize that true human dignity is not measured by the high position and pay one has but by what the person is in himself—being true and honest in his work.

To be humble is to understand and accept this truth on human worth and to work with pride and dignity at one's assigned tasks. Such attitude will bring a sense of self-fulfillment in work and in life, which makes both ordinary workers and managers equal. When both managers and workers humbly accept their dependence on God even in the workplace and sincerely performs his specific role at work in God's presence, then we would have found the ideal company. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Sunday PEOPLE *at* WORK

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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

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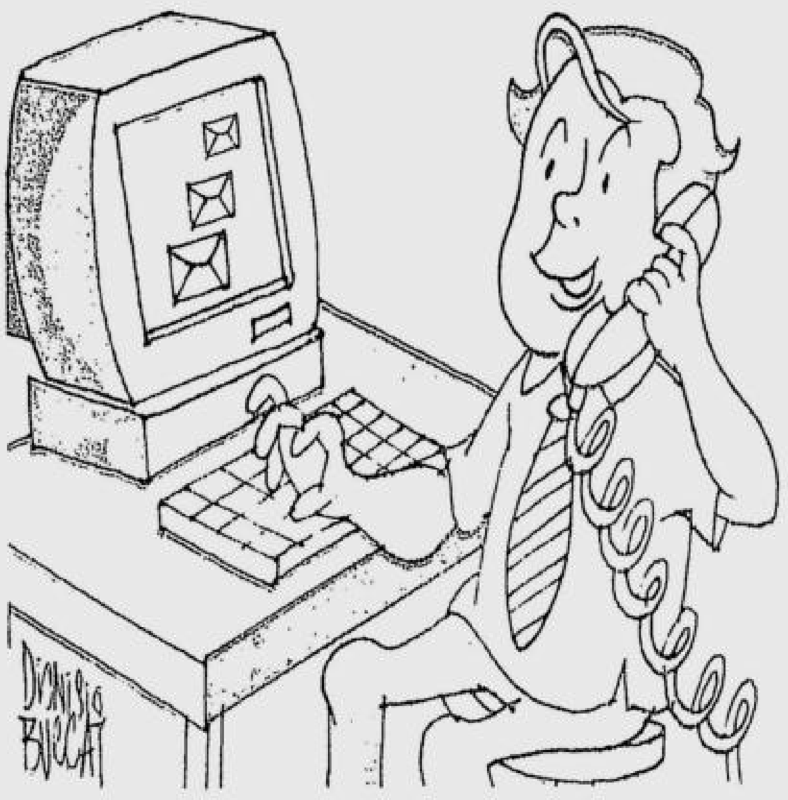

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONIS

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HOWTO P.8

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CAREER
COUNSELOR

I AM SINGLE, 24 years old and have tried applying for positions such as service crew, telemarketer, cashier and sales clerk. I have accumulated a total of 80 job applications since I was 16 but I have never succeeded in getting a job, except when an influential person backed me up.

I am jobless again and bothered by the fact that I have always been "dumped" after the final interview. Why can't I get a job? By the way, I think I have good looks, too, although my friends tell me that I lack "sex appeal" or charm. Can you give me some tips on how I can be more effective in looking for a job, especially on how to pass the final interview?

Miss Dumped

Let me first congratulate you for your perseverance in looking for a job. Not too many people have that patience to go on after 80 failed job applications. However, it takes more than patience and perseverance to get a good job.

You seem to focus on customer-related jobs such as those of service crew, telemarketer, cashier and sales clerk. I will assume that these are the jobs you want and are comfortable doing. It also seems that your good looks is an asset to you, particularly in these kinds of jobs. That you have reached the final interview in the job application process tells me that you have caught the attention of the hiring officers with your resumé. I shall therefore focus my advice on helping you hurdle interviews.

Interview process

You might have noticed that the first interview is usually done by the Human Resources or recruitment staff. This is called the preliminary interview (PI). The interviewer decides at this stage of the hiring process who among the job applicants will move on for further interviews (in-depth interviews or DI) by the HR manager and the requisitioning manager. During the PI stage, the questions asked by the interviewer are relatively simple and meant to verify the accuracy of the resumé or to get vital information not found in the resumé. At this stage, the interviewer will try to make a match between you and the job. He or she wants to know your com-

IALWAYS.P.10

ILLUSTRATION BY IONISIC BUCCAT

What's inside

Workplace safety is a must for businesses p. 10

Should I sue my company? p. 8

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Please and thank you

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

A FEW years into my career as mainstream journalist I had a boss (let's call him "Mr. JP") who impressed me as one of the best general managers I had ever known. A democratic one—to say the least—Mr. JP knew how to say "please" and "thank you."

"Please" and "thank you" are for everybody, not just for kindergarten kids who are taught to be pleasing and well mannered. And when spoken by our elders and superiors, we know that they are not merely genteel gestures but are words that flow out of a spring of humility. Humility reflects gratitude in the soul. A soul that is grateful acknowledges that whatever it has comes from a power much greater than itself.

A humble boss is a grateful boss, and sees even his subordinates as blessings and gifts to be appreciated as coworkers. Because he recognizes the Giver of his talents as Someone Much Higher than himself, he respects, yes, but is not awed by worldly authority, including his own. Thus, his good manners are not reserved only for people he can bow to- -like those who may be richer or more powerful than he is Nor are they employed as honey to attract good-looking and/or talented people he can use to cover up his inadequacies and fulfill his ambitions

The influence of a humble boss extends far beyond the workplace. The boss is a teacher, and his humility makes him a master, a shaper of future leaders. Mr. JP is an example of a humble boss. Now, several superiors later, I scan my memory and find him as the best general manager I've ever worked with- -and as the mentor who unwittingly introduced me to the depths of the words "please" and "thank you." (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Gospel. Lk 14: 1. 7-14

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Humility at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

I HAVE yet to find a company, which pays its skilled workers much higher than its managers and top executives. But I think that the industrial and business world would consider my quest ridiculous, to say the least. The prevalent norm in business is to give the kind of work or service its corresponding value and compensation. Management skills, which call for greater intellectual and psychological learning and abilities, are generally valued higher than manual and technical skills. Thus, in a workplace, the managers can rightfully "exalt" themselves, while the ordinary workers would just be content in "humbling themselves" in their place of work. When can the "humble, ordinary workers" exalt themselves in the sense Jesus points out in today's Gospel?

The "rank-and-file" workers or those considered, as the "labor" sector as contrasted to the "management" group, need not look at themselves with a sense of low self-esteem simply because they are at the lowest level of the hierarchy. They should realize that true human dignity is not measured by the high position and pay one has but by what the person is in himself- being true and honest in his work.

To be humble is to understand and accept this truth on human worth and to work with pride and dignity at one's assigned tasks Such attitude will bring a sense of self-fulfillment in work and in life, which makes both ordinary workers and managers equal. When both managers and workers humbly accept their dependence on God even in the workplace and sincerely performs his specific role at work in God's presence, then we would have found the ideal company (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Galing Pilipino Movement
www.galingpilipino.com

REVIVING THE HERO IN EVERY PILIPINO:

The Will to Go Forward

By Erly de Guzman

IS THERE such a thing as a Hero in Every Pilipino? Or is that but a statement of faith? Or worse, merely, a wishful thought? On the occasion of our National Heroes Day, the question begs for a firm answer.

Since we went public with this avocation to root out and root for Galing Pilipino, the way can be best described as an upstream swim. With the current mostly against us, we tenaciously kept our focus --- looking for what is good and galling about being Pilipino, about Pilipinos or something from the Philippines. Fighting to keep our heads above the strong forces of skepticism and despair among our countrymen and in ourselves, we plunged into the deeper recesses of purpose and commitment, utilizing reserves of courage and true grit to keep to the course. Pats on the back, accolades of encouragement and a rich storehouse of goodwill from friends, supporters and the many do-gooders in our midst, did not tame the demons of doubt or insecurity that said ours was a futile attempt, just chasing wind.

But we kept on --- so you could read what you are reading today.

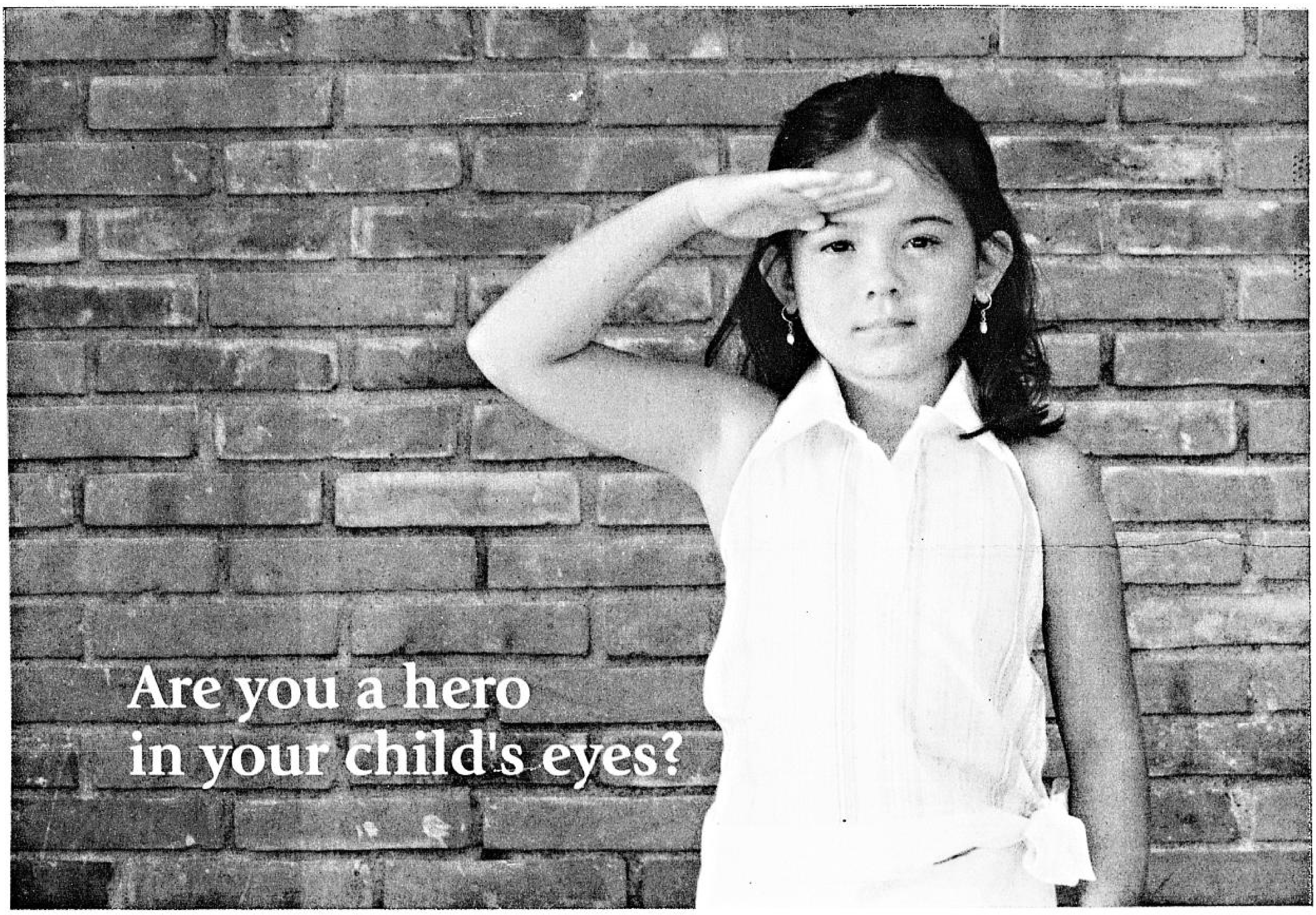
A little over two years since inception, on our third round of celebrating National Heroes Day, we stand tall and sure, firmer in resolve and more courageous in step to carry the charge to move the Movement forward, taking the next step in preparation for the next. Why? Not just because the Pilipino is worth dying or living for. Not just because the notion of a Hero in Every Pilipino is an incontestable ideal. The matter is an act of Will.

We believe there is a Hero in Every Pilipino because we have met so many of them. And we found them because we were purposively, relentlessly looking for them. To some, it was, to see is to believe. For others, they saw because they believed. At last count, there were 1,500 who courageously enlisted for this cause. The choice they made was heroic already, given our fledgling state and our shallow pool of resources and warm bodies. They believed in what we believed in and they paid the price for that belief.

More so, these GPM members inspired us to forge ahead resulting in milestone markers every quarter of the way: Galing Pilipino Kapihans held faithfully and engagingly from one-a-month to two, from one locale to over 13 now. National Heroes Day celebrations have become better with each passing year: From Barasoain Church in 2002 to four historical sites in Metro Manila last year, This year, it has evolved from a one-day event to a whole weekend of meaningful celebration.

Do TURN THE PAGES and marvel at the handiwork of heroism. Meet the Heroes in Pilipinos --- from the Galing Pilipino awardees of our I-Gilas volunteers... to the youthful winners of this year's essay writing contest... to the one inside you.

A Hero in Every Pilipino? Who knows, maybe. next year, you'll no longer be part of that question; you'll be the answer itself. The matter is only a question of Will.



Heroes affect the lives of people long after they are gone. To a child, a hero would have taught her values that would benefit her for life. He would have provided for her future... for that time, no one knows, when she has to make it alone.

A life insurance plan like the Sun Exclusive is all you need to make sure she grows up and goes on to follow her dreams.

Be your child's hero.
Carry the torch with a Sun Exclusive today.

Sun
Life Financial
Because trust is earned

For more information about how Sun Exclusive can help you,
Call 849-9888 or e-mail us at PHIL_SunDirect@sunlife.com.

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds; and Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., offering education and pension plans. Visit www.sunlife.com.ph.

Gali
Sal

Galing Pilipino Movement
www.galingpilipino.com

GPM National Heroes Day Events

August 27, Friday, 8 am - 11 am

GPM kicks off its National Heroes Day Celebration in Bulacan, the birthland of our Katipunan heroes. Baliuag University, the oldest university in the area, takes the lead in rallying the youth of the land to embrace the Galing Pilipino vision to bring our the hero in the Pilipino.

Aug. 28, Saturday, 8am - 11am

Campus GP Kapihans (held simultaneously)

Find out about the meaning and relevance of heroism to today's Kabataan as they read their entries to the nationwide GPM student essay-writing contest on the theme: The Hero(es) of My Generation: The Galing Generation. Discover how GPM volunteers unleash the power of affirmation by awarding Galing Pilipino stickers and citations to create a virtue cycle that counteracts skepticism and despair about our state of the nation.

Adamson University, San Marcelino St., Manila
· Arellano University, Legarda, Manila ·
Christian Values Academy, Bacoor, Cavite
· College of the Holy Spirit, Mendiola, Manila ·
Don Bosco Technical School, Mandaluyong
· Far Eastern University, Morayta, Manila ·
Joseph & Mary Academy, SanPedro, Laguna
· University of Sto. Tomas, Espana, Manila

Nationwide GP Kapihan (brunch hosted by Chowking)

GP Kapihan - Manila, 8 am-11am, Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong
GP Kapihan - Baguio, 9 am-11 am, Chowking - SM Baguio City
GP Kapihan - Cebu, 8 am-11 am, Chowking - Mandaue City
GP Kapihan-Davao, 8 am-11 am, Chowking, Bajada, Davao City
GP Kapihan, Butuan, 2 pm-5 pm, Chowking-Butuan City
GP Sunday Breakfast Forum @ Italiannis Makati

Aug 29, Sunday, 8 am - 10:30 am

Special Sunday Breakfast Forum at Italiannis, Greenbelt 2

Catch Peter Wallace as he shares his insights on how to harness Pilipino galing for nation-building. Discover how GPM volunteers unleash the power of affirmation by awarding Galing Pilipino stickers and citations that bring out what is good and excellent in Pilipinos. Hear UP Masscom Dean Nic Tiongson expound on The Hero in the Pilipino: Myth or Reality? Formal announcement of the National Winners of the GPM Essay Writing Contest will be announced here.

Prior reservation required. Please call 633.1089 Bhelle

Pagdiriwang ng Kabayanihan sa Bulacan

Enriquez Ancestral Home, 278 Molina St., Brgy. San Jose, Bulacan, Bulacan

Learn about our historical roots in an engaging educational experience. Appreciate the Women of Bulacan, Plaridel, Katipunan heroes and other significant segments of our past re-told and presented through plays, food lecture and local arts and crafts demo by the descendants of Bulacan Katipuneros. Enjoy the delectable "Pagkain ng mga Bayani", A stylized supper served the Katipunan-period style.

This afternoon tour program is a freewill offering courtesy of GPM. Merienda is hosted by Chowking. But there is a prepaid charge of P350 required for the special dinner.

For registration and further inquiries, please call GPM Foundation @ 631.3932 / 633.1089 or text @ 0917.835.4829

Reviving th
in Every

Revival means bringing life back to that which has lost its vitality. The Galing Pilipino Movement commits to do just this by focusing on what is good and excellent, to build up instead of put down, to recognize and bring out the hero in every Pilipino.

Recent events provide us with pockets of excellence to revive our sense of national honor. These were done by our kababayans here and abroad without thought for political grandstanding or material gain. Patricia Evangelista named best public speaker in the English speaking world. Dr. Josette Biyo, after whom a
honored as the best Science teacher o
New York taxi driver who was recognize
Jasmine Figueroa, Olympian archer, wh
but in reality, won by showing spo
strength of spirit.

We may have been the subject of mu
recent past. But suddenly, there is a rene
awakening to the need for us to cultivat
sense of national pride as Pilipinos. All

Galing Pilipino Movement
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A National Heroes Day Celebration

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the simple acts of excellence done by a student, teacher, driver. This is from where the Galing Pilipino Movement draws inspiration.

Now more than ever, we need to restore to life an awakening of our innate strength of character. The Pilipino is about ready to bear the torch of heroism today - to bring light for the world, as we envision this movement and this country to be.

As a people, let us make 'galing' the brand mark of being Pilipino.

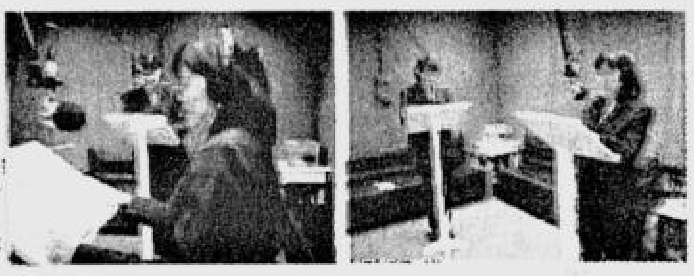
The Galing Pilipino Movement celebrates National Heroes Day through a Special Sunday Breakfast Forum

on August 29, 2004 8:00 to 10:30 am at Italianni's Greenbelt 2 Makati

This is a special invitation breakfast meeting for Media and Business Executives hosted by Italiannis. Featured guests include Peter Wallace who will his insights on how to harness Pilipino Galing in nation building. Awardees in the recent Jaycee Young Future Entreprenuers UP Masscom Dean Nic Tiongson will expound on The Hero in the Pilipino: Myth or Reality?

Galing Pilipino National Heroes Day Special sa DZRH

666Khz August 29, 2004 Sunday 9:00 am - 10:00am



A one-hour feature presentation highlighting the heroic attributes of Marcelo H. del Pilar whose 154th birth anniversary will be celebrated on August 30 this year. Plaridel (his nom de plume) harnessed the power of the media of his day to rally his compatriots to fight for reform and independence. Listen to his great grand daughter, Corina Unson, speak about him on this program.

Be inspired by the life dramas of two Galing Pilipino awardees - ordinary Pilipinos doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Moses, a 17-year old student, who donated his USD5,000 scholarship award to fund the education of his schoolmate who could not afford his tuition. Listen to Alma recount how impressed she was by a jail guard at the National Bilibid prison.

DZRH Anchorman Andy Vidal together with Erly de Guzman, GPM President and DZRH Reporter Cris Capulso create a lively discussion on air about the Hero in Every Pilipino.

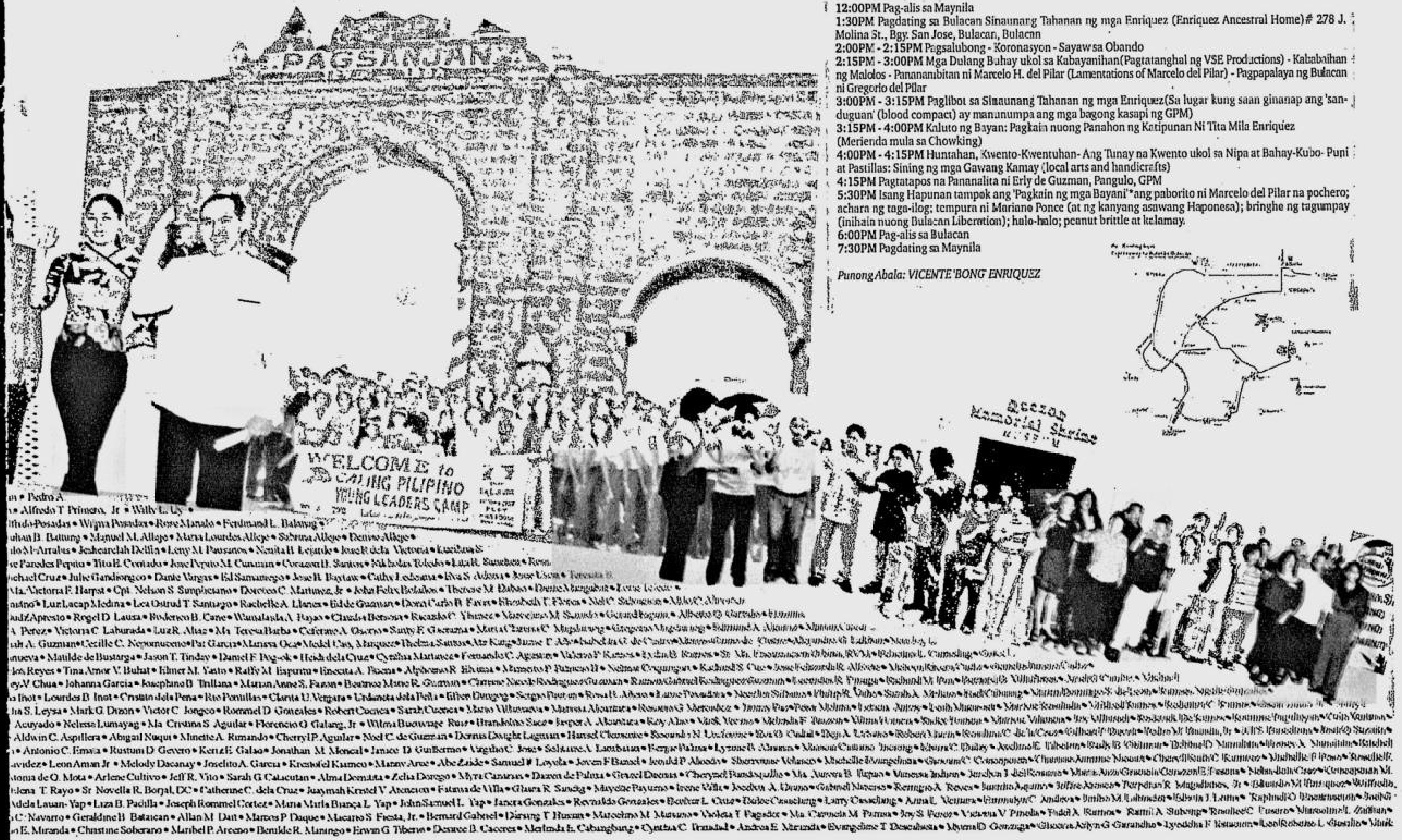
A DZRH production. Executive Producer: Jun Nicdao. Scriptwriter: Sheila Marquez. Drama Manager:Badong Royales. Drama Talents: Phil Cruz. Marilou Alipio. Augusto Victa. Tony Angeles. Mike Perez. Eloisa Cruz-Canlas. Susan Lemon. Dante Castro. Vilma Borromeo. Musical Scorer: Mahinder Gil. Technician: Bong Muyar.

PAGDIRIWANG NG KABAYANIHAN SA BULACAN

Ika-29 ng Agosto, 2004, Linggo, 1:00PM - 5:00PM

12:00PM Pag-alis sa Maynila
1:30PM Pagdating sa Bulacan Sinaunang Tahanan ng mga Enriquez (Enriquez Ancestral Home)# 278 J. Molina St., Bgy. San Jose, Bulacan, Bulacan
2:00PM - 2:15PM Pagsalubong - Koronasyon - Sayaw sa Obando
2:15PM - 3:00PM Mga Dulang Buhay ukol sa Kabayanihan(Pagtatanghal ng VSE Productions) - Kababaihan ng Malolos - Pananambitan ni Marcelo H. del Pilar (Lamentations of Marcelo del Pilar) - Pagpapalaya ng Bulacan ni Gregorio del Pilar
3:00PM - 3:15PM Paglibot sa Sinaunang Tahanan ng mga Enriquez(Sa lugar kung saan ginanap ang 'sanduguan' (blood compact) ay manunumpa ang mga bagong kasapi ng GPM)
3:15PM - 4:00PM Kaluto ng Bayan: Pagkain nuong Panahon ng Katipunan Ni Tita Mila Enriquez (Merienda mula sa Chowking)
4:00PM - 4:15PM Huntahan, Kwento-Kwentuhan- Ang Tunay na Kwento ukol sa Nipa at Bahay-Kubo- Puni at Pastillas: Sining ng mga Gawang Kamay (local arts and handicrafts)
4:15PM Pagtatapos na Pananalita ni Erly de Guzman, Pangulo, GPM
5:30PM Isang Hapunan tampok ang 'Pagkain ng mga Bayani'*ang paborito ni Marcelo del Pilar na pochero; achara ng taga-ilog; tempura ni Mariano Ponce (at ng kanyang asawang Haponesa); bringhe ng tagumpay (inihain nuong Bulacan Liberation); halo-halo; peanut brittle at kalamay.
6:00PM Pag-alis sa Bulacan
7:30PM Pagdating sa Maynila

Punong Abala: VICENTE 'BONG' ENRIQUEZ


PAGSANJAN
WELCOME to GALING PILIPINO YOUNG LEADERS CAMP
Quezon Memorial Shrine

n • Pedro A.
• Alfredo T. Primero, Jr. • Wally L. Uy •
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GPM NATIONAL HEROES DAY CELEBRATION 2004
STUDENT ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST NATIONAL WINNER

‘Heroes of my generation, the Galing Generation’

By ROCHELLE A. MIRA

Heroism is not shown by the quantity of material things a person contributes. It is the willingness and sincerity of service rendered that counts.

THOUSAND of heroes abound in movies. They have amazing powers such as the ability to fly and to sense approaching troubles. They fight with magnificent devices and high technology gadgets. They defeat enemies who destroy lives of innocent civilians. There are those who commit crimes such as stealing in order to help the poor. Their stories differ in theme but have a common ending. They portray heroism and courage. The bottom line is they always appear triumphant. These super heroes only exist in fiction but they are more likely idolized by many.

However, there are also real heroes who made history and left a legacy to our country. They are the Philippines' great heroes who shed blood on the battlefield and fought hostile foes in order to gain independence. Most of them gave up their lives for freedom. This freedom we are enjoying today is the fruit of their self-sacrifice. They died for democracy. That is why their names remain alive and their accomplishments are remembered. They are given honor and tribute as we celebrate National Heroes Day.

But the questions now are that, must heroism always depict killing the enemies and saving lives of fellowmen? Does one have to be as fearless as our national heroes or as brave as great warriors in order to gain recognition? Say, what does it take to become a hero?

Last summer vacation, I was invited by my close friend to spend a week in their municipality. The idea sounded exciting, so I packed my things without second thoughts. There, I met her family who welcomed me with a warm hospitality. Her father is a clergyman. That is why they reside near a Christian church. Since I am a Catholic, I thought I would be having culture shock. I was hesitant about what to do and cautious with the words I would say because I might offend their religious rites. As a guest, I had to attend their regular fellowships, church services, Bible studies and daily devotionals. Their rites seemed unusual for someone like me who heard mass only on Sundays. Their rituals were quite different from the practices in my church. But the parishioners were very friendly, so it did not take me a long time to adjust.

One morning, I was introduced to a group of young people. They are members of a youth organization within their sect and are also the church choristers who render songs of praise to God. That day, they discussed their youth mission, which was to visit another remote barangay. This has been their regular activity for the past few years. Hence, their activity, I learned, would be sharing stories to children and teaching them how to sustain their relationship with God, and also giving tips to parents regarding livelihood development. Since I was interested in climbing hills and valleys, they counted me in.

Going there, we had to endure a two-hour hike under the heat of summer, which gave me muscle tension and a feeling of dizziness. When we arrived at our destination, the children ran towards us with sweet smiles on their faces. I was tongue-tied when I saw the pitiful situation of the villagers. They lived in small houses and poverty was very obvious. We distributed the food and used clothing we brought. I was deeply touched by the unspoken happiness of the residents. The children enjoyed the activities and parents learned simple ways of making industrial products. I was really amazed as I witnessed the sincerity and kindheartedness of the group. It was a tear-jerking scene. When Bible study time came, I merely assisted them since I was not well versed. Then I found out that the feeling of dizziness in me was gone when I started getting involved and felt active again.

The experience gave me a lot of things to ponder upon. Varied ideas about heroism crowded my mind. I thought the young people nowadays could only be spotted in disco places, parties, or movie houses. But what I saw was the opposite. That is why I caught the spirit of volunteerism through these young people. They are the modern-day Filipino heroes. They are the heroes of my generation. They have shown generosity in their own simple but special way. These young people serve not only in church but also in places where civilization and development are not yet felt. They do not have rules and regulations or sanctions but they have established one common goal: to serve God and their fellowmen regardless of race, religion or belief. Their sole purpose is to help the needy.

Furthermore, these young people are ordinary folks; they do not belong to rich families. In fact, most members are in their mid-twenties who stopped schooling and decided to serve the church. Some of them are teenagers who have no chance of pursuing their education because of financial difficulties. But they have chosen to serve. And they have counted themselves in grabbing the opportunity to serve, because, deep within, they have that driving force to respond to humanitarian service. They have never been recognized, but to them that is not their goal. They choose to be simply volunteers no matter how risky the vocation. In fact, they just love what they are doing. And despite the hardships they have met, they still find peace, fulfillment and enjoyment with each other as they continue practicing good deeds and sharing the words of God.

In effect, the act of heroism is seen and demonstrated by these ordinary children of God. And I do believe that what they have been doing translates one Prinsipyong Galing Pilipino into action: "Kung paglilingkod sa kapwa ang iyong hangarin, kahit maliit na gawa ay kahanga-hanga rin." The good service they have extended is a proof that there is always something good in every human being.

In our day-to-day life, we meet a lot of people. We bump into them but seldom recognize what good they have within. Just like those young people I met during my vacation one summer time. They made me realize that one can be simply ordinary and still be a living hero.

Now I have learned that being a hero is not becoming a supernatural individual. Heroism does not require an abundance of learning nor a rich background. Heroism is not shown by the quantity of material things a person contributes. It is the willingness and sincerity of service rendered that counts. Rewards and recognition do not matter much when compared to the joy of commitment to serving God's people without condition.

Indeed, heroes abound around us. They could be ordinary citizens working hard for survival. Some may have hardly finished basic education but when the call to serve and to help is sounded, they do extraordinary feats in their own quiet way. Those young people they are the real heroes of my generation.

Rochelle is a 4th year Mass Communications student at the Saint Joseph Institute of Technology in Butuan City. This essay won her the Grand Prize for the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) National Heroes Day Celebration Student Essay-Writing Contest. She always dreams she is someone extraordinary.

What Drives You

Ang mabigyan sila ng parangal

Ipinagmamalaking ipinakikilala ng Caltex ang nahirang na 10 Outstanding Public Transport Drivers* ng 2003. Sila ang mga tunay na hari ng kalsada, pasado sa pasada. 'Yan ang dapat tularan.

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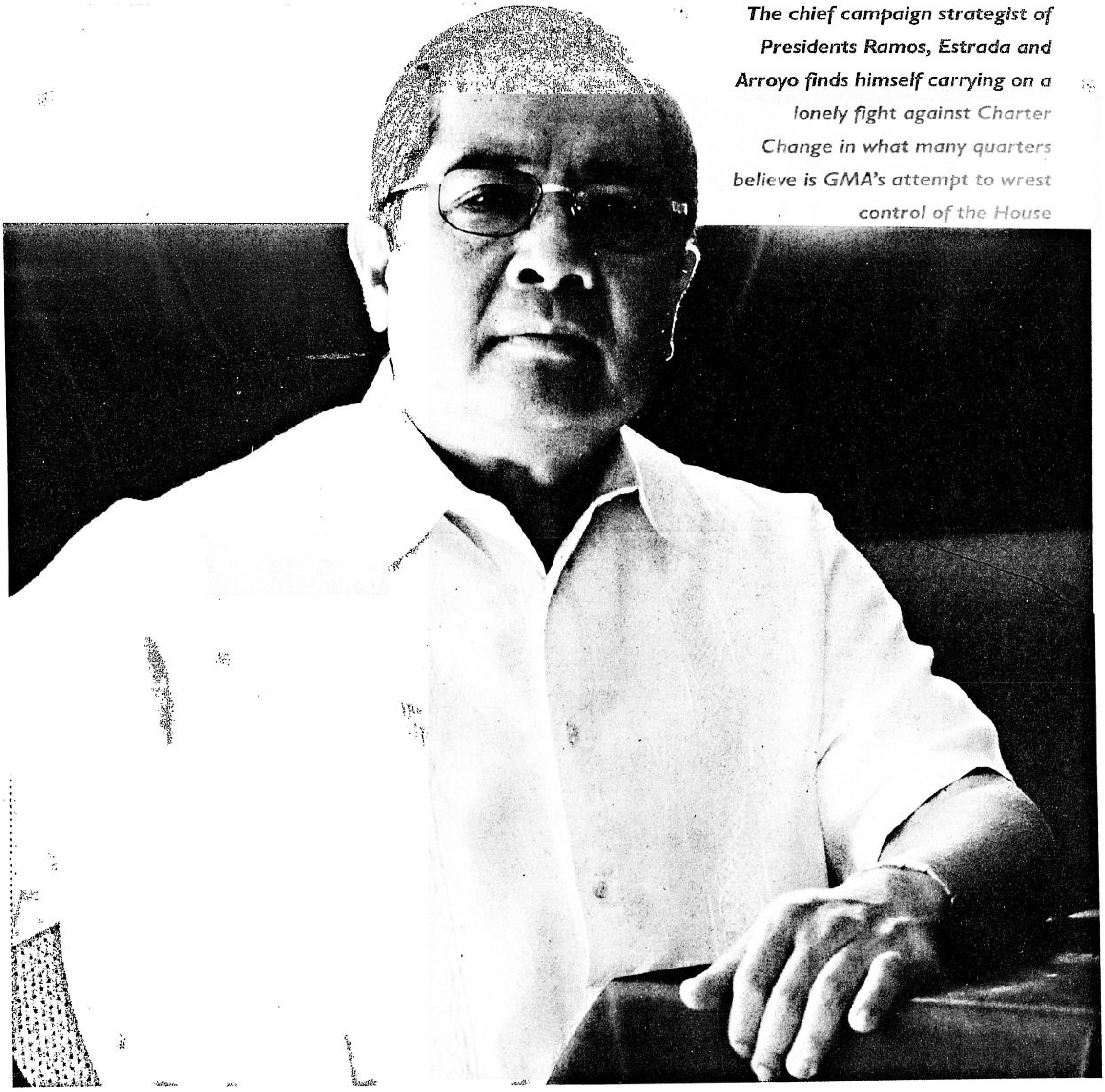
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
August 29, 2004

Rep. Ronaldo Puno

From the Backroom to the Frontline

The chief campaign strategist of Presidents Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo finds himself carrying on a lonely fight against Charter Change in what many quarters believe is GMA's attempt to wrest control of the House



By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

NEOPHYTE Congressman Ronaldo V. Puno (1st District, Antipolo) still speaks of the House to which he belongs as "them" instead of "us."

All things considered, this is probably a good thing. It reflects not only his differences with the newly-coalesced majority of House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who recently ejected Puno's Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi) from its ranks, but also his ambivalence about being in Congress in the first place.

"I don't want to be part of the problem," he says. "I want to be part of the solution."

This early in the game, Puno has already painted himself as something of an upstart, out to shake things up in the Lower House. Such pronouncements are unlikely to endear him to his colleagues, most of whom see him merely as President Arroyo's point man in the legislature. Apart from Puno's role as chief strategist who ran Arroyo's presidential campaign—a role he also played for former presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada—much has also been made of his being a former classmate of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his role in helping Malacañang weather the "Jose Pidal" crisis.

Such talk doesn't bother him. "I've already gotten myself into trouble by talking about the things people want from Congress, like reform," he says. "What do we need to do *para hindi trapo ang tingin sa atin*? Transparency is one. Style is another."

He adds: "Everytime I go to Congress, *naiilang ako* (I feel awkward). Everyone is so spiffy and well-dressed and strutting around trying to look important. Half the time those people on cellphones aren't talking about anything remotely related to legislation."

The novelty of being on the political frontline hasn't really worn off for Puno, who has always been described as a "backroom" specialist, referring to his expertise as an election campaign strategist. Puno's expertise was instrumental in helping put first Ramos and then Estrada into Malacañang. Few people were surprised when the Arroyo camp called him in to help run her presidential bid, in spite of his friendship with her predecessor Estrada. He is, after all, the man when it comes to building a well-oiled grassroots political machine and making it work in delivering the vote come crunch time.

Puno came by his expertise through long experience in a wide variety of fields ranging from government service to running a computer company to working in Washing-

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Sleeping on the Job Got Him to a Rousing Start as a Molder of Hearts and Minds
by Corazon A. Ong,

Keepers of the Secrets of Rice
by Linda Bolido, p.5

Kicking for Allah and Country
by Julie S. Alipala, p.6

Ronaldo

...from page 1

In Congress: "I don't want to be part of the problem; I want to be part of the solution"

ton, D.C., and from long immersion in the country's political life.

Puno, 56, is the second of 13 children of former Justice Minister Ricardo Puno Sr. (ABS-CBN's Dong Puno is his elder brother.)

Although he was a Marcos appointee during martial law, Puno Sr.—a respected member of the judiciary—maintained a reputation for being independent-minded. This, according to Puno, led to his being sidelined by Marcos in favor of litigator Estelito Mendoza.

"My father wasn't a politician, he was a judge. He didn't know how to compromise. He didn't follow orders."

Puno admits that he isn't very good at making everybody happy either—a basic skill that every politician needs to learn. He says he's always been better at advocacy than at compromise, a fact that is self-evident after Kampi's recent setbacks in the House.

Proxy fight

In what some quarters saw as a proxy fight between President Arroyo, who is Kampi's nominal leader, and former President and long-time De Venecia ally Fidel V. Ramos over the thorny issue of Charter change, Kampi had tried to challenge De Venecia's "rainbow coalition" consisting of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, the Nationalist People's Coalition and most of the smaller independent parties. Kampi had tried to form an alliance with the Liberal Party (LP), but at the last minute the LP swung the other way, joining the majority coalition instead and effectively leaving Kampi up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

Two weeks ago, Kampi bore the brunt of counterattacks from majority stalwarts accusing it of political maneuvering to capture key House committee positions in the guise of reforms. For his part, Puno threatened to join the opposition bloc. Some legislators shrugged the whole thing off as a failed bid by Malacañang to wrest control of the Lower House from the well-entrenched De Venecia.

Puno doesn't seem to be sweating it. "I guess it's just a cultural gap," he says. "I just don't share their culture. *Hindi ko siguro ma-gets yung kanila.*"

The feeling appears to be mutual.

Puno says early on that the Speaker had offered him the plum position of vice chairman in the powerful appropriations committee plus the chairmanship of any committee he wanted, but he turned it down.

"He told me that I was qualified," says Puno. "I said yes, but I've never done it before, and I don't want to appear self-serving. That's still my position. Now they're trying to make it look like we're the ones scrambling for committees. But we're only small players in the big game, how can we force the issue?

"We're allowing ourselves to be bullied right now because we respect the rule of the majority. They said they expelled us from the majority, but when I started talking to the minority, *nagagalit sila sa akin. Ano ba talaga* (They got mad at me. What's up with that?) They're schizophrenic—they cannot make up their minds. That comes from having no clear agenda."

In any case, Puno expects the recent excitement in the House to die a natural death as legislators settle down to their committees and buckle down to work. Or not, as the case may be.

"The funny thing is, everybody wants to get into the committees, but once they're in them, they don't work because there's seldom a quorum." He continues. "These are meaningless quarrels. What you are seeing is just Congress maneuvering for committee chairmanships, CA (the Commission on Appointments), allowances. Since I don't care about their allowances to begin with, and I'm not looking for any chairmanship or entitlement, I don't really care."

He says he is looking forward to drafting meat-and-potatoes legislation, for instance on improving local labor's competitiveness in the overseas employment market, and getting the country's long-neglected agricultural sector back in shape.

The shadow of Charter change, however, still hangs over the legislature in spite of the 100-day moratorium on debates, and remains a bone of contention stuck in its throat.

"I really don't think this concept of a transition president should be allowed to continue," Puno says. "It puts instability in the country, and makes people believe the false assumption that all our problems will go away if you change the structure of government."

The Antipolo representative says he is in the process of drafting or co-authoring a bill which would call for a constitutional convention in 2007, and a plebiscite in 2010 when the current President's term ends.

Tooth and nail

"But if they insist on a constituent assembly, we will fight it tooth and nail, because I really believe a constituent assembly is an affront to the people. We were elected as congressmen, not as a constitutional convention. If you convert it into a constituent assembly, Congress will have nothing to do but constitutional amendments. We can't even do the laws we're supposed to be doing. If you follow their agenda, we'll change into another form of government. It's an outrageous solution to a very serious problem."

Puno's introduction to politics came early. He was active in the Ateneo de Manila student council, and at 19, was elected president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines. After graduation, he married and started a family and went into the emerging computer industry.

"I started Alpha Electrosystems, which was the first service bureau in the country, in 1972," he recalls. "We bought a Century NCR 100 mainframe computer, which was as big as a room but less powerful than your laptop."

Puno soon built up a lucrative business selling information management systems to private companies and local governments, getting out of the business just in time as technological advances made mainframes obsolete.

With substantial savings, Puno was able to accept an invitation to join the much less lucrative government service. He was taken in under the wing of Jose Roño, Marcos's local government minister and a Samar congressman, first as executive assistant, and later as assistant secretary.

"He was my mentor," says Puno. "His politics was grassroots. He started the idea of the barangay, and we began the local government code, the *tanod* (village patrol), the Kabataang Barangay, the Lupon Pamayapa."

The experience of building grassroots political organizations would serve him in good stead later. After a short stint in the Department of Transportation, Puno was sent to Washington, D.C. as an attaché at the Philippine embassy, and it was in the US that he learned the art and science of running an electoral campaign.

Consultant

"I worked for five years as a consultant for the Washington lobby firm of Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, which was the group that got Ronald Reagan elected. One of their partners, whom I met, was Lee Atwater, who was Reagan's campaign manager."

Puno was fascinated by American electoral politics, specially the attention it paid to organizational matters. "The Americans are very big on structure," he says. "If you look at the manual of the Republican Party, it's like a cookbook. It tells you exactly what to do: the kind of coalitions you have to build, the kind of logistics planning you have to do. And the scale of an American congressional campaign is equivalent to our presidential campaign."

Combined with his experience in information processing and data management, these new ideas were a potent combination. "Politics is really information dissemination and organization," he says. "When I worked for the Ramos campaign in 1992, that was my model, the Republican Party. That's how our model for town level organization evolved. Everytime you run for president, some people will organize through the party system—congressmen and governors. We always bypassed that in favor of dealing directly with the town. But it's only possible to deal with towns if you have a good data management system—computers—because there are 1,500 towns and you have to deal with each one and their leaders. But during martial law, we dealt with barangays, so dealing with towns later was easy."

After Ramos' win, Puno's reputation as campaign strategist par excellence was sealed. But he laughs off persistent rumors that he earned millions from selling his services to candidates. "The amounts that they talk about correspond to the amount needed for the entire campaign," he says. "I don't bill hundreds of millions of pesos; no one in his right mind would pay me that kind of money."

Besides, he adds, he doesn't need it.

"I have always been fortunate economically," he says. "Most of the business enterprises I've gone into have been very successful." Apart from his computer company, Puno was one of the original founders of Extelcom, and ran a lucrative land development business in the US.

"To tell you the truth, in all those campaigns, I worked for the candidates because I believed in them," he says. "I worked for FVR because I knew his talents as an administrator, and I felt what the country needed most at that time was a manager. In (Estrada's) case, I really believed the slogan 'Erap *para sa mahirap.*' I thought the pro-poor agenda was long overdue, and I was happy to work for him. In the case of GMA, similarly her agenda is veering toward the things I think we ought to do. I don't regret having helped any of them."

But Puno has also been dogged by a knack for winning the campaigns but losing in the aftermath. He was appointed Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government by Estrada, for instance, but failed to get the nod from the Senate. Now he seems to have stuck his neck out for Arroyo in the Lower House, but Malacañang can't really afford to be seen as too eager to assert itself in Congress. President Arroyo has in fact already endorsed De Venecia's speakership, effectively ending the contest.

New beginning

That doesn't seem to faze Puno the neophyte, who in spite of his misgivings about Congress seems to relish this new beginning. "I don't really care what they say because I serve at the pleasure of my constituents," he says.

Although a relatively recent transplant to Antipolo, Puno says his experiences with his new community—most of whom are squatters—has given him a fresh outlook on life. He says he had no intention of running for the newly-created First district, but was prevailed upon by his neighbors who felt he was the only one who could voice their problems to government.

"It's a rebirth because I am dealing with people who need me more than I need them. I guess their need is a more genuine kind. When people need me for their campaigns or politics, it's an exploitative relationship, because when they don't need me anymore, they dump me in the trash bin."

Puno admits that the terrain of politics, unlike the terrain of the campaign, will take some getting used to.

"I'm happy with what I'm doing now," he says. "The hardest thing I have to do on a daily basis is go to Congress and try to make sense of what's happening there. Fortunately, that doesn't take up too much of my time."

When things get rough, he says, he takes comfort in thinking about his father, now 81 and still active in his law firm.

"My dad is more of an inspiration to me than an adviser," he says. "He is the best example of someone who was put under so much political pressure—without any preparation for it—but who never compromised his principles and remained true to his beliefs. And he survived with grace and dignity. When I see him, I know it can be done. You can be vilified, but in the end, what really matters is what's inside your head. If you know you were true to yourself, you can be happy." Q

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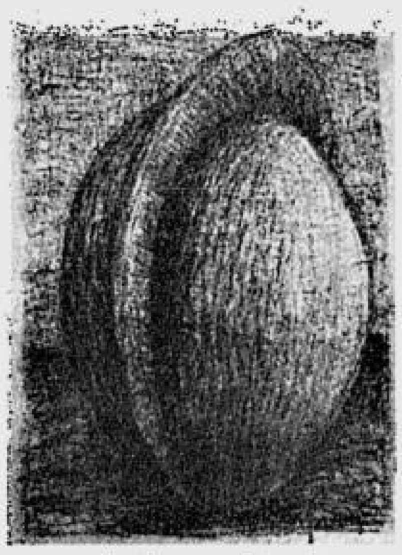

AQUILIZAN'S BLACK/WHITE

Alfredo Juan Aquilizan is exhibiting a series of achromatic works selected from previous installations, drawings, paintings and objects from 1996 to the present at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Building, Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Sept. 21. On view are some works done and exhibited in England, Havana, Southeast Asia and Australia. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Short Hair

For A.

I like short, practical hair,
Not hair like Rapunzel's. Now who
Would want to spend all day
Shampooing an elevator cable?
"Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"
Maybe the prince just wanted a princess
He could tie down to the palace
On a leash of silk-smooth hair.
When the witch cut Rapunzel's hair,
She was doing her stepdaughter a favor.
"With hair this short, you'll never have
Bad Hair Day." I like short,
Practical hair.

Carmelo Juinio

Tubig

Bagyong mapaniil ang gabi.

Heto ako,
nakababad sa dilim,
natutunaw
sa aking pag-iisa.

Lason
ang mga ala-alang
pumapatak
sa aking diwa—
ang mga gabing
isda ang iyong dila
sa dagat ng aking balat,
tinutuklas
ang mga bahaging
tubig lamang dati
ang sumasalat.

Binuksan ko ang bintana
para bumuhos ang liwanag
at hugasan ang aking
pangungulila.
Sumalubong sa akin
ang libu-libong patak
ng ikaw—

nariyan at nariya'y
hindi ko mayakap.

Yol Jamendang

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Ronaldo

...from page 1

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Puno says early on that the Speaker had offered him the plum position of vice chairman in the powerful appropriations committee plus the chairmanship of any committee he wanted, but he turned it down.

"He told me that I was qualified," says Puno. "I said yes, but I've never done it before, and I don't want to appear self-serving. That's still my position. Now they're trying to make it look like we're the ones scrambling for committees. But we're only small players in the big game, how can we force the issue?

"We're allowing ourselves to be bullied right now because we respect the rule of the majority. They said they expelled us from the majority, but when I started talking to the minority, *nagagalit sila sa akin. Ano ba talaga* (They got mad at me. What's up with that?) They're schizophrenic—they cannot make up their minds. That comes from having no clear agenda."

In any case, Puno expects the recent excitement in the House to die a natural death as legislators settle down to their committees and buckle down to work. Or not, as the case may be.

"The funny thing is, everybody wants to get into the committees, but once they're in them, they don't work because there's seldom a quorum." He continues. "These are meaningless quarrels. What you are seeing is just Congress maneuvering for committee chairmanships, CA (the Commission on Appointments), allowances. Since I don't care about their allowances to begin with, and I'm not looking for any chairmanship or entitlement, I don't really care."

He says he is looking forward to drafting meat-and-potatoes legislation, for instance on improving local labor's competitiveness in the overseas employment market, and getting the country's long-neglected agricultural sector back in shape.

The shadow of Charter change, however, still hangs over the legislature in spite of the 100-day moratorium on debates, and remains a bone of contention stuck in its throat.

"I really don't think this concept of a transition president should be allowed to continue," Puno says. "It puts instability in the country, and makes people believe the false assumption that all our problems will go away if you change the structure of government."

The Antipolo representative says he is in the process of drafting or co-authoring a bill which would call for a constitutional convention in 2007, and a plebiscite in 2010 when the current President's term ends.

Tooth and nail

"But if they insist on a constituent assembly, we will fight it tooth and nail, because I really believe a constituent assembly is an affront to the people. We were elected as congressmen, not as a constitutional convention. If you convert it into a constituent assembly, Congress will have nothing to do but constitutional amendments. We can't even do the laws we're supposed to be doing. If you follow their agenda, we'll change into another form of government. It's an outrageous solution to a very serious problem."

Puno's introduction to politics came early. He was active in the Ateneo de Manila student council, and at 19, was elected president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines. After graduation, he married and started a family and went into the emerging computer industry.

"I started Alpha Electrosystems, which was the first service bureau in the country, in 1972," he recalls. "We bought a Century NCR 100 mainframe computer, which was as big as a room but less powerful than your laptop."

Puno soon built up a lucrative business selling information management systems to private companies and local governments, getting out of the business just in time as technological advances made mainframes obsolete.

With substantial savings, Puno was able to accept an invitation to join the much less lucrative government service. He was taken in under the wing of Jose Roño, Marcos's local government minister and a Samar congressman, first as executive assistant, and later as assistant secretary.

"He was my mentor," says Puno. "His politics was grassroots. He started the idea of the barangay, and we began the local government code, the *tanod* (village patrol), the Kabataang Barangay, the Lupon Pamayapa."

The experience of building grassroots political organizations would serve him in good stead later. After a short stint in the Department of Transportation, Puno was sent to Washington, D.C. as an attaché at the Philippine embassy, and it was in the US that he learned the art and science of running an electoral campaign.

Consultant

"I worked for five years as a consultant for the Washington lobby firm of Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly, which was the group that got Ronald Reagan elected. One of their partners, whom I met, was Lee Atwater, who was Reagan's campaign manager."

Puno was fascinated by American electoral politics, specially the attention it paid to organizational matters. "The Americans are very big on structure," he says. "If you look at the manual of the Republican Party, it's like a cookbook. It tells you exactly what to do: the kind of coalitions you have to build, the kind of logistics planning you have to do. And the scale of an American congressional campaign is equivalent to our presidential campaign."

Combined with his experience in information processing and data management, these new ideas were a potent combination. "Politics is really information dissemination and organization," he says. "When I worked for the Ramos campaign in 1992, that was my model, the Republican Party. That's how our model for town level organization evolved. Everytime you run for president, some people will organize through the party system—congressmen and governors. We always bypassed that in favor of dealing directly with the town. But it's only possible to deal with towns if you have a good data management system—computers—because there are 1,500 towns and you have to deal with each one and their leaders. But during martial law, we dealt with barangays, so dealing with towns later was easy."

In Congress: "I don't want to be part of the problem; I want to be part of the solution"

After Ramos' win, Puno's reputation as campaign strategist par excellence was sealed. But he laughs off persistent rumors that he earned millions from selling his services to candidates. "The amounts that they talk about correspond to the amount needed for the entire campaign," he says. "I don't bill hundreds of millions of pesos; no one in his right mind would pay me that kind of money."

Besides, he adds, he doesn't need it.

"I have always been fortunate economically," he says. "Most of the business enterprises I've gone into have been very successful." Apart from his computer company, Puno was one of the original founders of Extelcom, and ran a lucrative land development business in the US.

"To tell you the truth, in all those campaigns, I worked for the candidates because I believed in them," he says. "I worked for FVR because I knew his talents as an administrator, and I felt what the country needed most at that time was a manager. In (Estrada's) case, I really believed the slogan 'Erap *para sa mahirap*.' I thought the pro-poor agenda was long overdue, and I was happy to work for him. In the case of GMA, similarly her agenda is veering toward the things I think we ought to do. I don't regret having helped any of them."

But Puno has also been dogged by a knack for winning the campaigns but losing in the aftermath. He was appointed Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government by Estrada, for instance, but failed to get the nod from the Senate. Now he seems to have stuck his neck out for Arroyo in the Lower House, but Malacañang can't really afford to be seen as too eager to assert itself in Congress. President Arroyo has in fact already endorsed De Venecia's speakership, effectively ending the contest.

New beginning

That doesn't seem to faze Puno the neophyte, who in spite of his misgivings about Congress seems to relish this new beginning. "I don't really care what they say because I serve at the pleasure of my constituents," he says.

Although a relatively recent transplant to Antipolo, Puno says his experiences with his new community—most of whom are squatters—has given him a fresh outlook on life. He says he had no intention of running for the newly-created First district, but was prevailed upon by his neighbors who felt he was the only one who could voice their problems to government.

"It's a rebirth because I am dealing with people who need me more than I need them. I guess their need is a more genuine kind. When people need me for their campaigns or politics it's an exploitative relationship, because when they don't need me anymore, they dump me in the trash bin."

Puno admits that the terrain of politics, unlike the terrain of the campaign, will take some getting used to.

"I'm happy with what I'm doing now," he says. "The hardest thing I have to do on a daily basis is go to Congress and try to make sense of what's happening there. Fortunately, that doesn't take up too much of my time."

When things get rough, he says, he takes comfort in thinking about his father, now 81 and still active in his law firm.

"My dad is more of an inspiration to me than an adviser," he says. "He is the best example of someone who was put under so much political pressure—without any preparation for it—but who never compromised his principles and remained true to his beliefs. And he survived with grace and dignity. When I see him, I know it can be done. You can be vilified, but in the end, what really matters is what's inside your head. If you know you were true to yourself, you can be happy."

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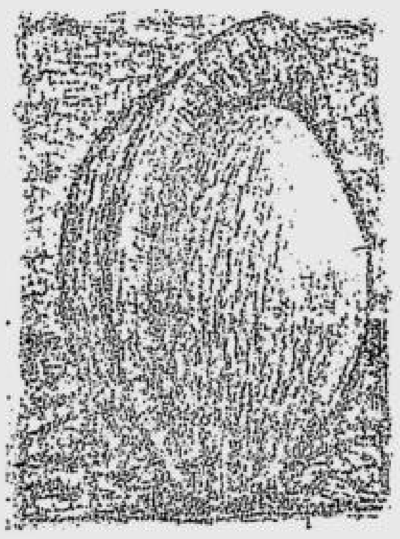


AQUILIZAN'S BLACK/WHITE

Alfredo Juan Aquilizan is exhibiting a series of achromatic works selected from previous installations, drawings, paintings and objects from 1996 to the present at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Building, Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Sept. 21. On view are some works done and exhibited in England, Havana, Southeast Asia and Australia. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Short Hair

For A.

I like short, practical hair,
Not hair like Rapunzel's. Now who
Would want to spend all day
Shampooing an elevator cable?
"Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair!"
Maybe the prince just wanted a princess
He could tie down to the palace
On a leash of silk-smooth hair.
When the witch cut Rapunzel's hair,
She was doing her stepdaughter a favor.
"With hair this short, you'll never have
Bad Hair Day." I like short,
Practical hair.

Carmelo Juinio

Tubig

Bagyong mapanill ang gabi.

Heto ako,
nakababad sa dilim,
natutunaw
sa aking pag-iisa.

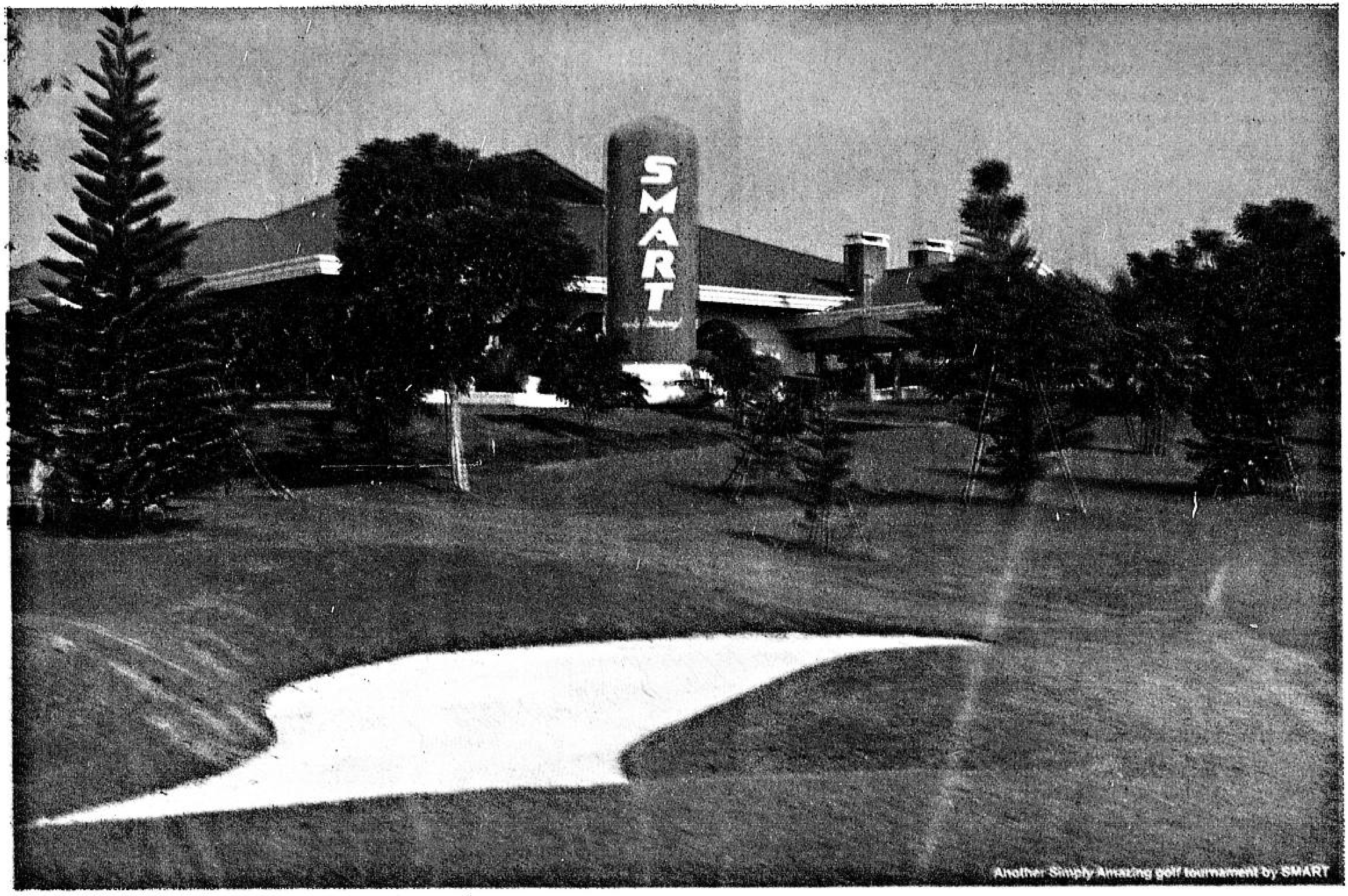
Lason
ang mga ala-alang
pumapatak
sa aking diwa—
ang mga gabing
isda ang iyong dila
sa dagat ng aking balat,
tinutuklas
ang mga bahaging
tubig lamang dati
ang sumasalat.

Binuksan ko ang bintana
para bumuhos ang liwanag
at hugasan ang aking
pangungulila.
Sumalubong sa akin
ang libu-libong patak
ng ikaw—

nariyan at nariya'y
hindi ko mayakap.

Yol Jamendang

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>



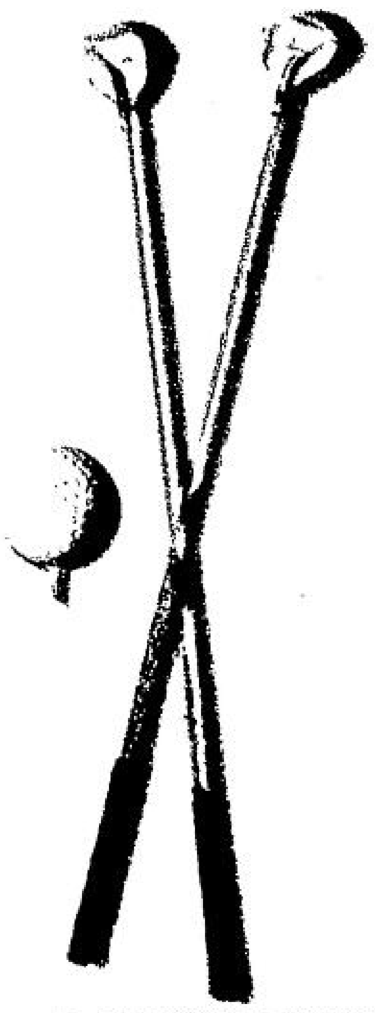
Another Simply Amazing golf tournament by SMART

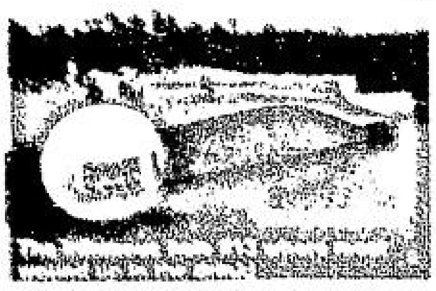
The SMART President's Cup Takes on Davao

Rancho Palos Verdes Country Club played host to yet another prestigious tournament. In its beautifully landscaped verdant greens, the first ever SMART President's Cup in Mindanao took place. A bright sunny morning, in the bustling metropolis of Davao, welcomed more than seventy participants who decided to take on the challenge of the 18-hole course. SMART Infinity members, corporate clients, and VIP's were pampered to the fullest with personalized lockers, individual gifts, and full sumptuous buffets; receiving nothing less than a 5-star treatment from the SMART crew. After a busy registration, players took to their respective holes for an exciting simultaneous tee off. A rotational system kept the greens active with putters and swingers all throughout the morning.

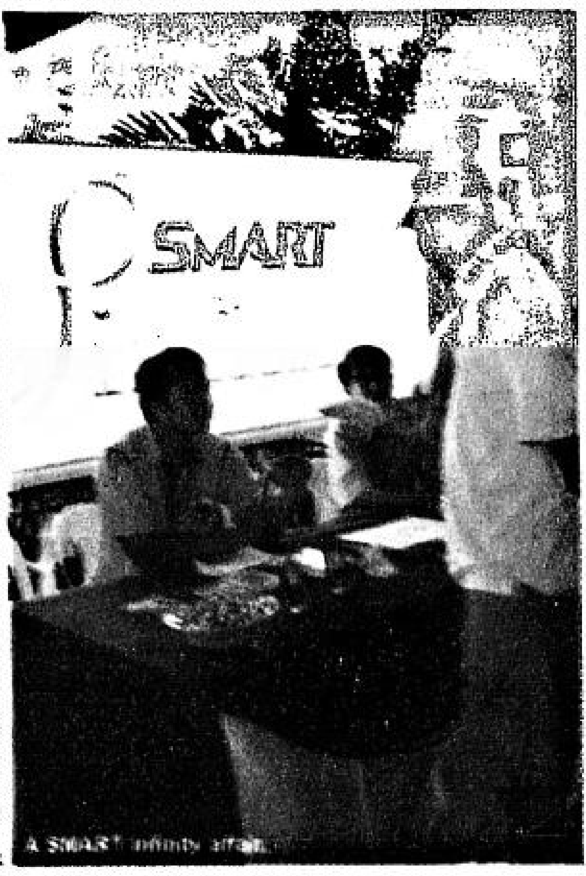
Keeping his competitive edge amidst the plains and rolling landscape Joe Marfori bagged the Class A award. Behind him were Yoshio Funakoshi for Class B and Chester Uyco for Class C. The only woman in the group, Melly Leyeza, won the Ladies Division with the score of net 74. With a magnificent view of a banana plantation on one side and the light and easy camaraderie amongst players on the other, the event was anything but simply serious. Special awards were given to fellows who made this event not only challenging but enjoyable as well. Among the awards given were the In The Drink Award for the most number of balls in the water, In The Bunker Award, and the Ladies Tee Award for the shortest drive; all given in good sport and clean fun.

SMART and PLDT President Polly Nazareno together with the Head of SMART PCMSD Boy Martirez were there to partake in the event and to give off trophies to the deserving winners. Three cheers to Smart for yet another world-class sporting contest!





Rancho Palos Verdes welcomes the SMART President's Cup in Davao



A SMART Infinity affair

The champions with Polly Nazareno and Boy Martirez

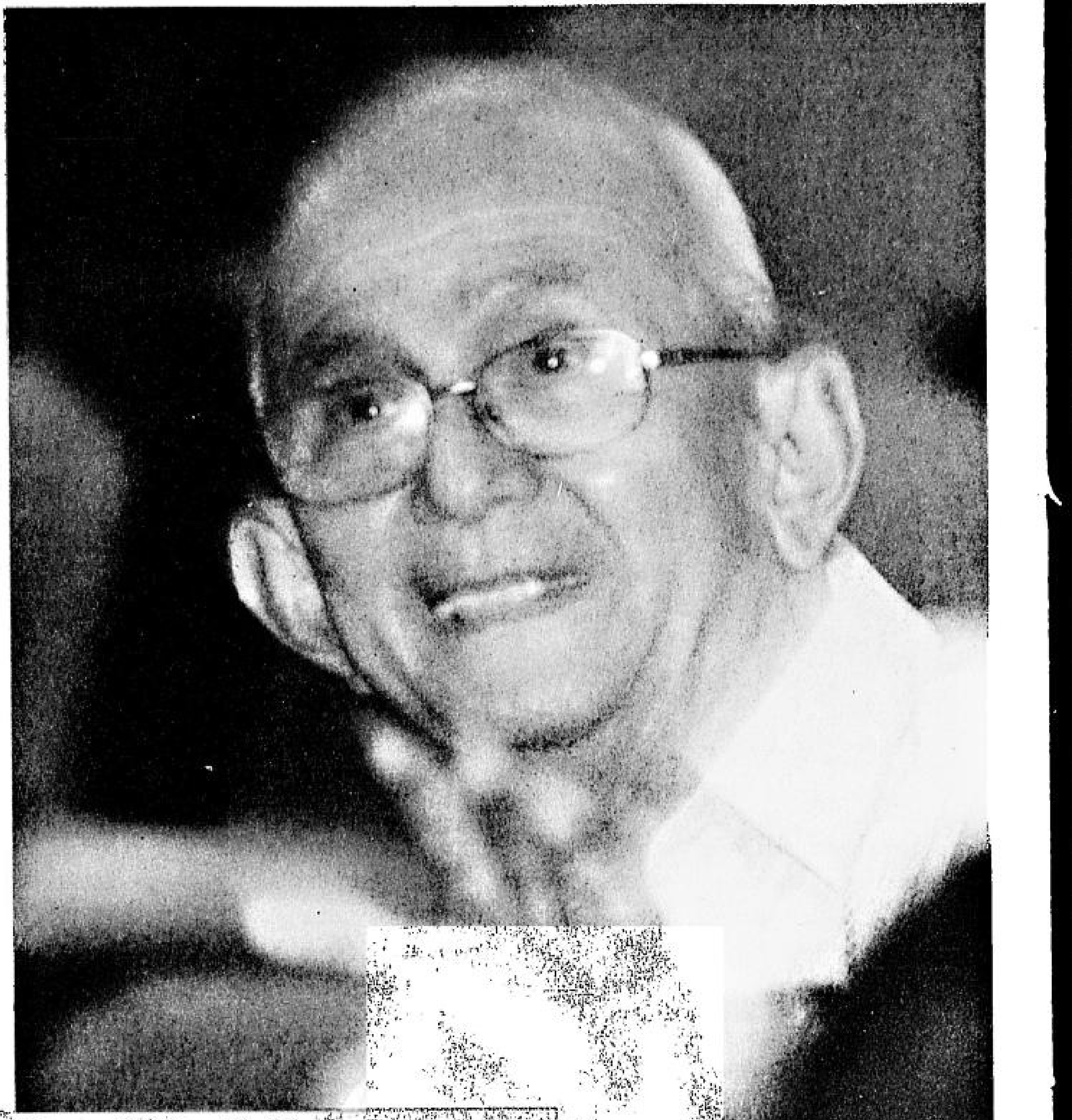
WELCOME
to the
SMART

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Academe

By Corazon A. Ong
Photographs by August dela Cruz

Sleeping On the Job Got Him to a Rousing Start As a Molder of Hearts and Minds



ONOFRE Pagsanghan's name proved to be a tongue twister to Fr. Gough, his 4th year high school mentor, so the Jesuit teacher decided to cut it short. "I will call you with what my American tongue will allow me, Mr. Pagsi." And so the name stuck.

Watching rehearsals at the Tanghalang Onofre R. Pagsanghan at the Ateneo

Mr. Pagsi finished Education in 1951 at the Ateneo and started teaching in the same school right after graduation. Small and thin—he weighed only 87 pounds at the time—he did not look promising as a teacher. Worse, Fr. William Hayes, the high school principal, thought he would not even last the term.

So, the principal did the next best thing. He gave Mr. Pagsi a key to an unused classroom on the third floor and instructed him to take a daily nap there after lunch. "*Susmaryosep*! I must be the only teacher who was being paid to sleep on the job," he says. The principal also assigned Mr. Pagsi to handle the first year honors section, "which was usually given to fellow Jesuits," Mr. Pagsi recalls.

Still at it

The afternoon nap plus the principal's trust and concern must have worked because at 77, Mr. Pagsi is still at it—teaching, loving and molding young boys to become leaders of tomorrow. "All in all, I must have taught 20,000 boys, maybe more, and each opening day, I'd tell my class: 'This year of my life is for you because outside of my family, I will devote myself to you. You're very precious to me. You are the meaning of my year.' "

And Mr. Pagsi is one who means what he says. In his 53 years of teaching, he has never shortchanged his class. Unbelievable as it may sound, he has never been absent from school, not even when he had his honeymoon. "After my Friday class, my wife (Florinda Duran) and I were on a bus bound for Baguio. By 3 p.m. of Sunday, we were on our way back to Manila because I had a class the following day."

Even now when he has become an in-demand speaker for various fora, missing his class has never been an option. "Three years ago, mainly because of my age, I was made a part-time teacher at Ateneo. Initially, I felt bad about the move because I know I have not been remiss in my obligations as a teacher. But now, I see God's hand in all this," says Mr. Pagsi.

Indeed, while his classes at the Ateneo have been trimmed down, his talks and lectures on teaching as a vocation have multiplied. "Just when I have become old and bald and have started wearing dentures, people are finding me more desirable," he says in jest—referring, no doubt, to the never-ending speaking engagements thrown his way. During school breaks, he does not mind having a fully booked speaking schedule, but once classes start, Mr. Pagsi's role and duty as a teacher takes the upper hand.

"Teaching is not simply a sharpness of mind but also a bigness of heart. I could have made more money if money was my object but I'm just a simple man. What is important is that you find service and meaning in what you do. When you're standing in front of the class, the most important thing you're teaching is not your Math or English but how you live your life," he says.

Public school product

While he finished high school and college at the Ateneo, Mr. Pagsi takes pride in also being a product of the public school system. "I graduated from Cecilio Apostol Elementary School in Oroquieta, Manila and I was a Tuesday boy," he says. This means he was part of a group that stayed to clean the classroom every Tuesday. It was a day they looked forward to because this gave them an extra half hour more with Miss Herminia Ancheta, a favorite teacher who led by example—sweeping the floor with them and bending on all fours to apply wax and keep the floor shiny. "She was a great teacher. I was only 8 at the time but until now, at 77, I could still visualize her."

Miss Ancheta's style of leading by example impressed Mr. Pagsi so much it became his guiding philosophy in life. Leadership by example is what he also practices at home. When his three children, Stella, Joel and Sylvia, were growing up, he'd join them in a game called Follow the Leader. "If the game's leader jumped on the new sofa, we'd all jump on the sofa, too, never mind the loud protestations from my wife. If the leader decided to crawl under the table, we'd follow suit. The worst part of course was when Sylvia, then four, crawled under the bed and I, with my rickety back, had no choice but to follow suit. It is, after all, always leadership by example. You can only lead people where you are willing to go."

Lean and underweight, Onofre Pagsanghan was instructed to take a daily nap when he started teaching. Some 53 years and 20,000 students later, Mr. Pagsi still shares life's meaning with his wards

Following the leader

Many, many years after, he'd resort to the same game when he was invited to speak before 1,725 school principals at Teachers Camp in Baguio City. "On the first day of the forum, all the minor gods and goddesses of DECS were in attendance and seeing the vast audience, I developed cold feet." It didn't help any that when he started his lecture some of the audience were not paying attention—they were either talking with their seatmates or reading the day's newspapers. "So, I switched from my talk and started chanting the lines. We're following the leader, the leader, the leader. We're following the leader wherever he may go..." While singing, he was pointing his finger from one audience to the other and, slowly, the newspapers came down and the crowd listened attentively to what Mr. Pagsi had to say. The forum went smoothly after that.

In one of his recent lectures, Mr. Pagsi explained why he did what he did. "Inscribed on the gate in the main building at Teachers Camp are these words: 'Be proud you are a teacher. Tomorrow is in your hands.' We are holding the lives of the young in our hands—the future leaders of tomorrow—but how can we teach the students to respect and follow us when our supervisors and principals do not respect and follow us?"

Touching lives

Mr. Pagsi loves to collect quotes about the teaching profession. A few years back while vacationing with his wife in Singapore, he saw two key chains with beautiful quotes on them. "I really wanted to buy them but because of my Ilocano roots, *kuripot ako* (I'm tightfisted). I found them expensive and decided not to buy them. Instead of which, I placed the quotes in my heart and in my mind. One of the quotes says: 'A teacher touches lives forever.'" Indeed, a teacher, he continues, touches lives not only for one hour, one day or one semester but forever.

So, Mr. Pagsi continues to give his all to teaching which he believes is what God made him for. A typical day for him starts with a Mass and ends with Dulaang Sibol, the high school theater, which he founded in 1966. From 4 to 6 p.m. daily, he trains a select group of students not only in dramatics but also on how to live a meaningful and morally upright life.

In 1996, to mark his 45th year of teaching, Ateneo renamed Dulaang Sibol Theater as Tanghalang Onofre R. Pagsanghan. Close to the theater is his office, which he calls, "his little room," where apart from his table and chair are found art works and mementoes by his former students, including a twisted toothpaste tube which calls to mind one of the favorite lines of their beloved teacher: "My ambition is to be like a used up toothpaste tube, all squeezed out, twisted whichever way, folded many times over, scraped clean of all the beautiful things God has given me for giving away."

A gift of love

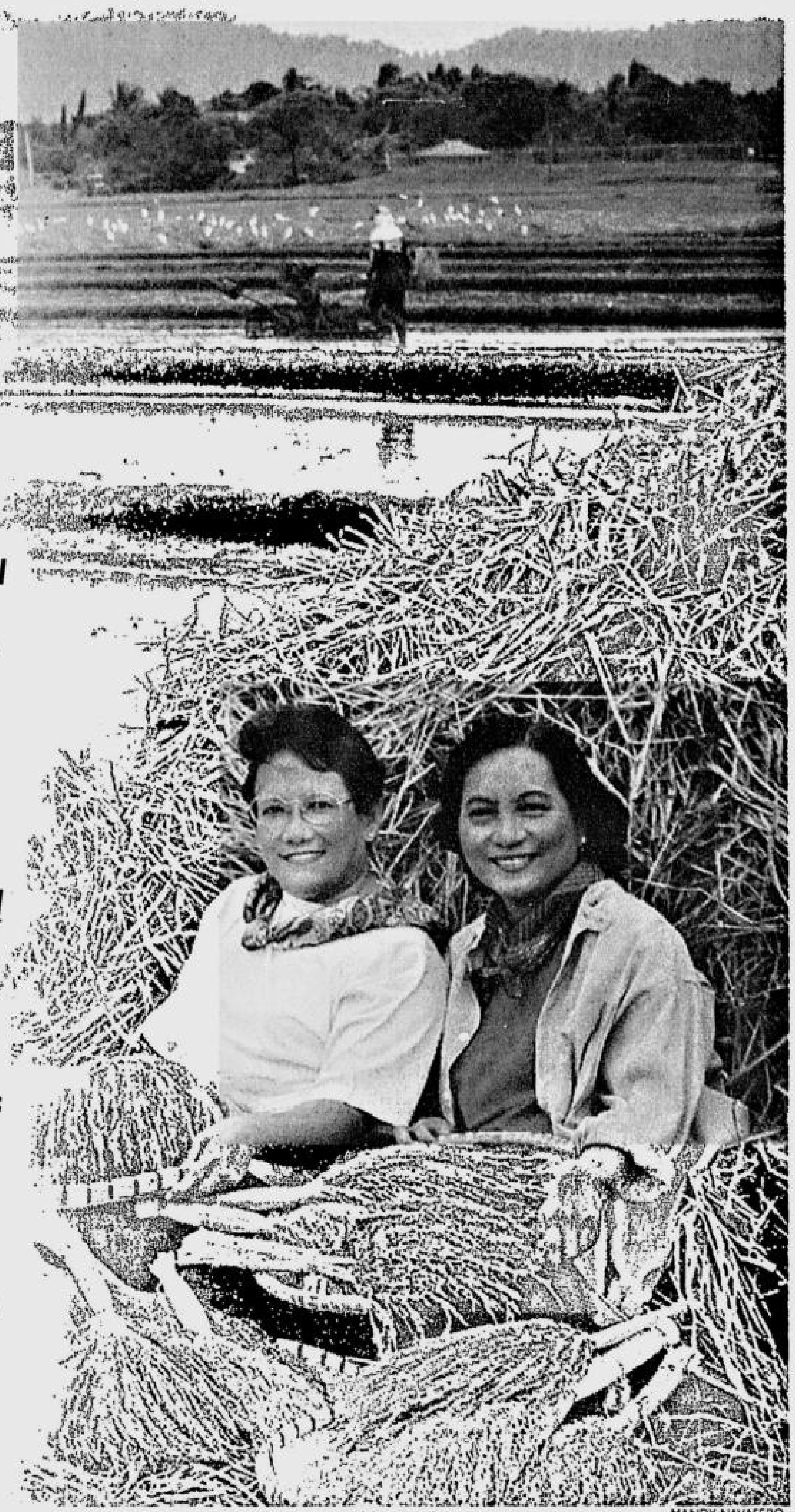
Mr. Pagsi has loved his boys and they have loved him back. Since the very first class he handled in Ateneo in 1951, he has been loved. "It was the last day of school before the long Christmas break and I could smell the aroma of fried chicken and spaghetti wafting from the other classrooms but none seemed to be coming our way. So, I consoled myself with the thought that if my class did not prepare any Christmas party, I'd simply partake of lunch in another class. When it was nearing dismissal time, the class president raised his hand to ask my permission to speak and I told him to go ahead. And he said, 'Sir, we know you are disappointed in us. After six months of teaching us, we were not man enough to even organize a class party. Instead of which, we decided to do something else. Sir, we noticed that you do not have a watch, so, we thought of giving you this.'"

And with all the boys milling around, egging him to open their gift, Mr. Pagsi opened the small box—inside was a beautiful Bulova watch. "It was my first watch and I was misty-eyed."

Someday, he says, when God would open his heart, He'd find there the names of the people he had loved, including all the names of his students whose lives he has touched. Q

By Linda Bolido

Keepers of the Secrets of Rice



MANDY NAVASERO

De Guzman and Paris give new meaning to the phrase 'rice and shine'

As the world celebrates the International Year of Rice, IRRI scientists Flora de Guzman and Thelma Paris are sowing seeds of recognition for women's role in agriculture

FOR the longest time, the only way women were ever associated with rice was when they were cooking and serving it. Farming has always been regarded as a man's field, no matter if women prepared the seedbed, planted the crops, weeded the fields and did their share in harvesting, storing and marketing the produce.

Fortunately, two women scientists are fast revising that image through their work on rice research. Through their groundbreaking work at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Thelma Romero-Paris, Ph.D., and Flora Credo-de Guzman have surfaced women's role in agriculture.

De Guzman describes her job as " protector of one of humankind's most valuable treasures." That may sound pompous but as chief "banker" at IRRI, she makes sure that the world's three billion rice-eaters are assured of a steady supply of this staple. De Guzman and her team take care of the Institute's Genebank, the largest and most diverse depository of rice varieties in the world with 107,000 types from 110 countries.

The gene bank stores, propagates, documents, and distributes seed samples to farmers and countries that want to preserve their traditional rice varieties. De Guzman has helped elevate the IRRI Genebank to meet the highest international standards that it is now considered as "one of the best for others to emulate."

Paris an agriculture economist major with a doctorate in social ecology is coordinator, since 1994, of the Women in Rice Farming Systems Network sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Although she was not the first to shine the spotlight on women's role in agriculture and to call attention to their concerns, Paris has significantly advanced their cause through her research and advocacy.

Forced by circumstance

It is difficult to imagine, given these women's enthusiasm for their current jobs, that they started as rather disinterested rice scientists, forced by circumstance to go into a field that had since become both career and vocation.

De Guzman, a Caviteña, worked for her bachelor's degree in Agriculture (major in agronomy), only because a maternal uncle, a graduate of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB), had insisted. The uncle who would become president of what was then the Don Severino Agricultural College (now Cavite State University), figured that, at the very least, she could teach at the college. Her family was not exactly thrilled by the idea and told her, "*Galing ka na nga sa bundok, doon ka pa rin pupunta.*(You came from the boondocks, and now you want to go back there?)"

The sixth of seven children, De Guzman says she had no idea what she wanted to be when she grew up. Both her parents had only reached Grade IV, and her father became an occasional farmer and carpenter. Without much options, De Guzman entered UPLB. At the University, the agricultural sciences were still the main areas of study even in the '70s when she enrolled so most new students ended up in agriculture-related courses.

But even then, de Guzman says she still had no clear idea of what to do once she was out of the university. She was willing to take on any job although, ironically, working for IRRI was not one of her immediate goals. In the turbulent '70s, when campuses were hotbeds of activism and young people railed against the establishment, IRRI was seen as another "imperialist" ploy meant to take advantage of a developing country's valuable resources.

When a job opportunity opened up at the Institute after graduation, De Guzman took it thinking it would just be a temporary arrangement until a better opportunity turned up. Well, she never left and has not regretted her decision since. She also realized that far from being a tool of capitalists and imperialists at the IRRI, she was making a modest contribution to advancing the country's interest and that of other developing countries as well. Her job helps her protect the Philippines' traditional rice varieties from extinction.

The work that de Guzman and her team does has earned for them for three consecutive years until 2003, the Excellence in Science award for maintaining the world's most extensive collection of rice genetic resources. De Guzman personally received the prize in Nairobi last year.

A master of science in seed technology also from the UP College of Agriculture, De Guzman, wife and mother of two, has co-authored several scientific papers, among them the implementation of long-term conservation efforts for 95 percent of stored rice varieties.

Even after 25 years, De Guzman still finds her work interesting and challenging. She recalls this visit from a Mangyan delegation from Mindoro who donated their own seed samples to the Genebank so their community's future generations could still use them.

Paris' story is similar. The third of seven children, the Los Baños- born and bred scientist ended up at the UPLB not because of a burning desire to go into the agriculture sciences but because it was the practical thing to do. Her widowed mother worked as a dentist at the university infirmary so there were certain privileges the children could enjoy.

Paris, who briefly toyed with the idea of becoming a nurse, studied for a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics with no plans to work in the rice field but "because I wanted to have a glamorous job in a bank." During her time at UPLB, agriculture was pretty much a male turf.

By the time she graduated, however Paris' desire to work in a bank had started to cool. With many of her classmates working as research assistants in the university. Paris accepted a research assistant position at the Dept. of Agricultural Economics at UPLB.

Marriage ended her UPLB stint since her husband, who also had a degree in agricultural economics and was with the university faculty, went to the United States to pursue his post-graduate studies on a Fulbright grant. For four years in the US, she earned extra money as baby sitter, a billing and inventory clerk for a paper company and as a typist working on students' theses.

Back home, Paris would land her longterm job again without deliberately seeking it. Still working on his doctoral thesis, her husband had regular meetings with an expert at IRRI and Paris, who believes in destiny, decided to tag along. It turned out there was a vacancy and the IRRI official asked if the young wife would be interested to work as a researcher. She reported the following day, and has never left IRRI since.

IRRI's former research assistant would eventually become an Internationally Recruited Staff specializing on gender issues involving research, technology, and development. Though insisting she is not a feminist, Paris, a mother of two grown-up boys, began compiling data on the important role women played in rice production and processing. She would also develop a methodology that would include women's issues in rice farming systems research. This scientist got agricultural engineers and agronomists to develop tools that would lighten the workload of women, and introduced improved glutinous rice varieties that allowed them to make a more substantial contribution to the family income.

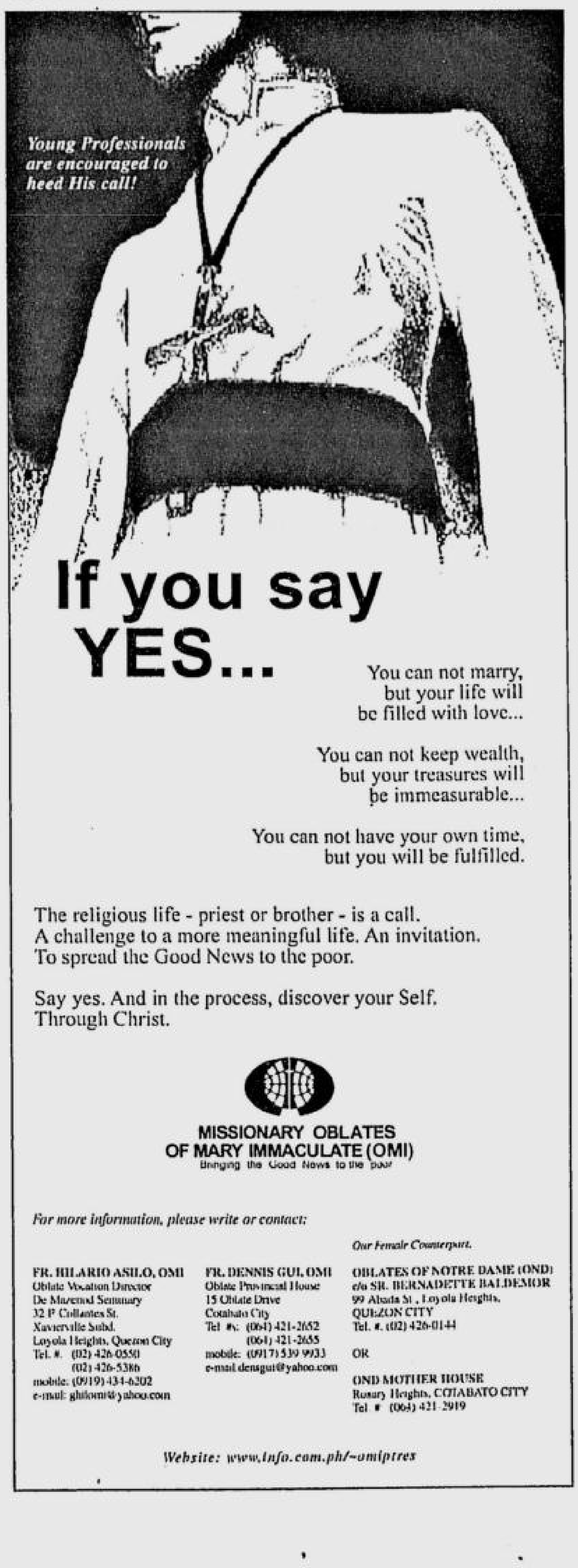
Initial opposition

Despite initial opposition from husbands or fathers who were not too keen to see women in more active roles, Paris persevered and worked on persuading the men that the whole process would also make their lives easier. As IRRI's first gender specialist in 1998, Paris has written 62 papers mainly on women's issues and has brought her advocacy to other parts of Asia.

Among the awards she has received are the Chairman's Excellence in Science Award for Local Professional, and the Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Contribution to IRRI's Programs from the institute itself.

She may have been thrust into her current work by circumstance rather than choice, but Paris is determined to do as much as she can in and out of IRRI to bring into focus gender issues and to help women advance by making them more productive.

With Paris in the field and De Guzman in the Genebank, women in farmwork and agriculture have finally found staunch allies and champions. Q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but your treasures will
be immeasurable...

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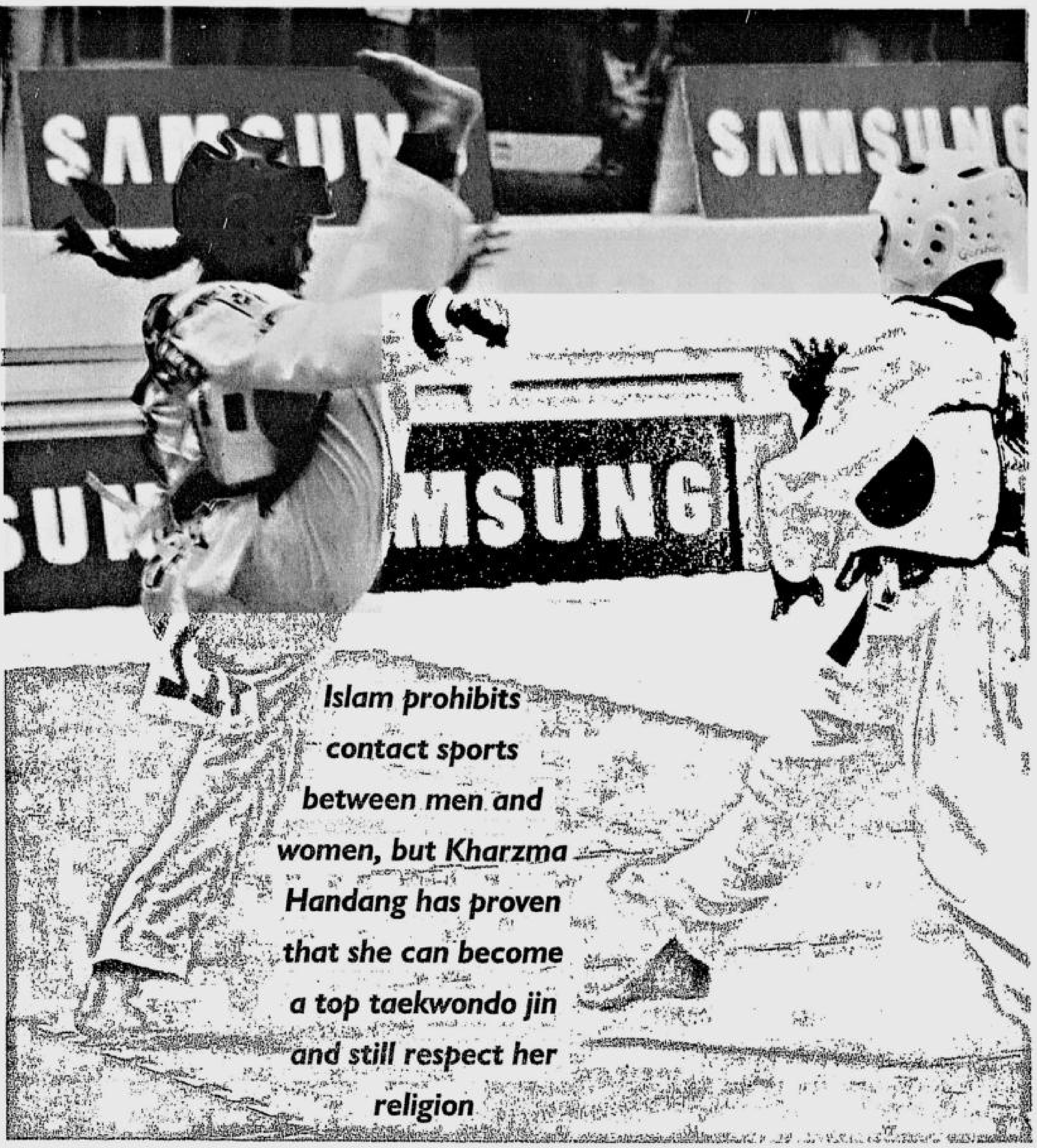
All in the Game

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
Photographs by Louie Rubio

Kicking for Allah and Country



Islam prohibits contact sports between men and women, but Kharzma Handang has proven that she can become a top taekwondo jin and still respect her religion

SEVENTEEN-year-old Kharzma Handang is just a little over five feet tall. With her lean frame, it's hard to believe that she packs enough power to become one of the world's best taekwondo players.

The shy Tausug lass admits that she was only drawn to the sports out of curiosity. Before she got hooked on taekwondo, Kharzma says she was into volleyball and even became one of the city's finest players.

Top: Kharzma (left) gets a leg up on the opposition; (below) Landing at the top podium spot in Korea

"But I got frustrated with the way some coaches treated me," she says with a trace of bitterness. "Maybe because I'm Muslim, they ignored my skills even if I was good."

No stopping her

When she entered high school, some of her friends told her about taekwondo. She tried it out. "One day, I sneaked out and *parang* try-try *lang, laro-laro lang* (I regarded it as child's play).

In one of these tryouts, Kharzma came home with an injured arm and leg. Her mother Virginia was furious and forbade her daughter to set foot in the gym again. "She promised to stop," her father Sukarno, recalls.

But the headstrong girl couldn't be stopped. Without her parents' knowledge, she continued taking lessons in taekwondo.

In May 1999, Kharzma decided to test her skills at a competition in General Santos City. But first, she had to ask permission from her parents who knew nothing about her new sport. As expected, they blew their top when their daughter told them about the games.

"I was worried but I promised them I'd bring home a gold, and I did just that," recounts Kharzma. "That was my first gold in an individual competition."

Never forgetting Allah

But the gold did little to reassure her parents. Sukarno says he could not understand why his daughter would pick a sports that is uncommon among female Muslims. He also confesses to being worried because taekwondo allows body contact. Islam prohibits males from touching women except their wives.

"Our religious leaders would tell me that the sport is not good," Sukarno says. But when he saw his daughter's determination, he finally gave her his consent. "I gave my approval and support on condition that she would maintain her good academic standing and not forget Allah in all her undertakings," adds Sukarno.

He shouldn't have worried. Like any Muslim faithful, Kharzma is proud of her religion."When I participate in a competition, other players respect my faith. But once I remove my *turong* (veil), that means I am ready for the game," she reveals.

Kharzma is currently the three-time champion of the US Taekwondo Open. Louieson Rubio, Kharzma's *Sabumnim* (coach), says she got her latest gold medal from the US Open in February.

"She even competed alongside Japoy Lizardo, the MILO boy, as part of the Philippine Team in the US Open Tournament at Tampa, Florida last February 2004," adds Rubio. "Japoy got a silver medal for the male category, while Kharzma got the gold for the female category."

Reaping honors

On June 19, Kharzma again won the gold at the World Taekwondo competition during the Warang Festival in Korea, right in the sport's homeland.

Kharzma has also introduced her two sisters and brother to the sports. Sixteen-year old Darwisa and Darnina, 12, competed in the regional level of the Palarong Pambansa while Jahiddin, 9, got silver during the recently held 2004 Batang Pinoy in Palawan.

Sukarno feels elated by all this. The honor that his children are reaping, he says, proves that "not all Muslims are bad like terrorists."

Kharzma is definitely not bad, not bad at all. Q

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Maria

Maria, mother of Jesus, is our mother too. Never is she a Female Deity we adore, nor a woman to compete with your 'other woman or women' in your life

I JUST met two venerable ladies on two separate occasions. Doña Josefa E. Marcos was attending Mass many years back. After the Mass, I had a chance to kiss her hand, *mano po* style and, forgetting my prepared script, asked her clumsily, "*Kumusta po ang inyong anak* (How is your son)?" The old lady smiled at me.

Much later, Doña Aurora Aquino was also attending a requiem Mass for her son Ninoy. Crowds rushed towards her afterwards. I touched her hand, and whispered, "*Mabuhay po ang inyong anak* (Long live your son)!" The lady turned around and smiled at me.

Once I dreamt that I met another lady. Mary, the mother of Jesus—in my dream—was sitting at the foot of a huge crucifix in front of a church. Beside her were Doña Josefa E. Marcos and Doña Aurora Aquino. I had no problem stopping for a while and conversing with the mothers of two very important persons. In fact, I felt proud and very important being seen in public with them. But I had difficulty greeting Mary, the mother of Jesus, because—in that dream—I was a Baptist!

I have a dear Baptist friend—Ronnie. He was dying of bone cancer. I rushed to his side when he asked for me. He implored me to pray for him. His wife, Zeny, and their four children joined me in prayer. I also asked Ronnie to pray for me. Knowing him as a brave and holy christian, I told him that the prayers of one like him—a suffering servant of God—were valuable to me. "Yes," he assured me, "I shall remember you in my pain." I held his hand, and we prayed.

It was the same Ronnie who, three years before, confronted me in a heated argument about praying to Mary. "We are not supposed to pray to Mary," he said. "It is unbiblical."

That night when he asked me to pray for him, I also asked Mary to pray with us. I said to myself that if it was not unbiblical for Ronnie to ask for my intercession, I could implore Mary's intercession too. I thanked Ronnie for remembering me in his pain. I was tempted to tell him that I must also thank Mary for remembering us—including Ronnie—in her sorrows. As I touched Ronnie's hand, I told our Blessed Mother to bring my friend's sufferings to Jesus. Zeny, Ronnie's wife, was to tell me later that she also brought Ronnie's broken body to Jesus.

I could feel the presence of these two women—Zeny and Mary—as we prayed, and I remembered what Jesus said: "If two or three of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Mat. 18:19-20).

Ronnie, our cancer patient, is back on his feet again. I never told him about Mary joining me and Zeny in prayer over him that Saturday night seven years ago. He has remained a Baptist until now, but he never rebuked me again for making Mary a very important woman in my life.

* * *

September 8, Wednesday, is the birthday of Maria, mother of Jesus and our mother too.

Never is she a Female Deity we adore, nor a woman to compete with your "other woman or women" in your life.

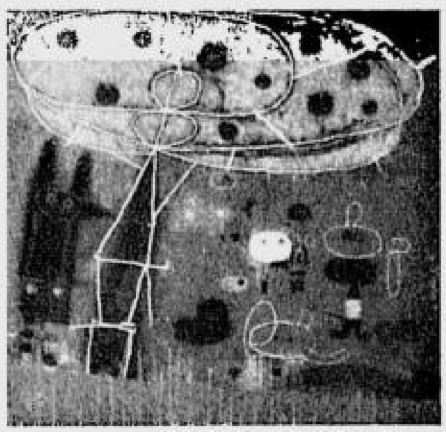
Maria is just a woman, mother of Jesus Christ of the Gospel. Call her "mama," "*inay*," "*ninang*," if you wish, but just a simple woman, very true and very deep in the hearts of those who call her such. It's non-negotiable, please. Q

This Week

Art

Pintor Kulapol, a group of young and talented artists from Sagay City, Negros Occidental is holding a group exhibit at the Syano Artlink, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subd., Parañaque City until Aug. 30.

Young visual artists **Christian Tamondong and Vincent Paul Padilla** hold their respective solo exhibits at the Boston Gallery, 72 Boston St., Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao, QC until Sept. 22. Tamondong presents his recent series of color/form paintings in "Tragic Playground" at the Upper Gallery. On view at the Lower Gallery is "Kinahon," recent oil paintings of Padilla. For details, call 722-9205.



Christian Tamondong's "Stranger," on view at the Boston Gallery

Music

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra opens its 21st season under the baton of Eugene Castillo with the concert **Coming Home** on Sept. 10 at the CCP's Tanghalang Nicanor Aberlado. The Philippine premiere of Angel Peña's "Trinity, A Symphonic Cycle" will open the concert. It will also be highlighted by the performance of soprano Camille Lopez-Molina in Samuel Barbers' "Knoxville: Summer of 1915." For tickets, call 832-1125 loc. 1801-1806 or 832-3878.

Musician **Toti Fuentes** is back in the mainstream concert scene. He is scheduled for a show at Corick's Bar, Sept. 3, 8 p.m. with Rico J. Puno and Christine Valdez. Fuentes will reunite with Julia Fordham in a concert on Nov. 18, Ayala Museum; Nov. 20, Greenbelt, and Nov. 21 in Ayala Alabang. He will also do concerts in the US with Fordham, Tony Orlando and Rico J. Puno. For bookings, call Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801.

Lineup of **performers at Aruba Bar** and Restaurant for September: Nyoy Volante with Mannos on Tuesdays; Truefaith on Wednesdays; M.Y.M.P. on Thursdays; Jed Maddela and Gail Blanco with Prime Council on Fridays; and Mpower on Saturdays. Aruba presents laid-back music on Mondays. Aruba is located at 2/F Plantation Building along Libis, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 637-5101.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation stages "El Filibusterismo" at various venues in September

Cinema

"Young Adam," starring Ewan McGregor and Tilda Swinton, will have its premiere at the **7th Cine Europa: The Bigger Picture** film festival, an annual event of contemporary art films from the European Union. McGregor plays the rootless young drifter Joe who finds work on a barge that hauls coal between Scottish towns. The all-Scottish opus screens on Sept. 3, 6 and 10 at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong, while screenings in SM Baguio and SM Cebu cities in the same month will be announced later. For details, contact Nick Deocampo, at 410-4545, 410-4567; and the Delegation of the European Commission at t812-6421 local 218 or 204.

Onstage

Gantimpala Theater Foundation stages **El Filibusterismo**, a darker tale of revenge and retribution from the novel of Dr. Jose Rizal. Performances are on Sept. 3-5 (10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College, Manila); Sept. 10-12 (AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC); Sept. 18-19 (RFC Cinema, Las Piñas), and Sept. 24-25 at Cabuya Arts Center, Laguna). For details, call 899-5745 or 896-3503.

Atbp

Soft launch. Copies of **"Great Men and Women of Asia,"** on the remarkable lives of 15 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees from 1958-1967 will be made available on Aug. 30, at the RM Hall, Magsaysay Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila, starting at 5 p.m. "Great Men..." is edited by Lorna Kalaw Tirol and features write-ups by Ceres Doyo, Angelina Goloy, Ester Dipasupil, Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz and Ma. Socorro Naguit.

"Young Pens for Young Minds" will be presented during the inauguration of the RM Reading Room at the Museo Pambata, Kalaw cor. Roxas Blvd., Manila, on Aug. 31 at 10:30 a.m. The book is an anthology of the winning essays in the first four years of the RM Student Essay Competition. Both books are co-published by the RM Award Foundation and Anvil Publishing, Inc.

In line with its 81st anniversary, **The Quezonians 1923 Inc.** will hold an annual **dinner-dance charity ball** on Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m. at the grand ballroom of The Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. A highlight of the event is the turnover ceremony of the newly completed Livelihood and Learning Center to help the underprivileged residents of Quezon. For tickets, call 552-8054 or (042) 373-6006.

Six young, talented painters and one sculptor won in the first **Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Competition**. The winners in the painting competition, oil based medium on canvas category are: Jaypee S. Samson ("Iskolar"), first place; Reynald S. Mujeres ("Righteous to Choose"), second place; and John Paul S. Castillo ("Mistaken Prioritites"), third place. The winners in the water media on paper category are: Michael D.G. Gonzales ("Idle Spaces"), first place; Noli P. Manalang ("Innocent Reverie"), second place; and Fitzsimon L. Herrera ("Mechanical Drained Puppet 02"), third place. Florence M. Cinco bagged the grand prize in the sculpture competition for his work, "Human." Awarding ceremonies will be on Sept. 10. The exhibit will be open to the public from Sept. 13-24 at the Lobby of the Metrobank Plaza in Makati City.

Jaypee S. Samson's "Iskolar" topped the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Contest

The Jesuit Priests and Brothers will be holding a **vocation seminar** for male college students and young professionals on Sept. 12. The seminar will be held at the Conference Room B, St. Paul College-Manila, Pedro Gil Street, Malate, Manila, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Maximum age limit is 29 years old. Registration is free. Those interested may call 426-6101 for more details.

The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) is offering fellowships to practicing journalists admitted to the six-week **online course on Editorial and Opinion Writing** from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25. Only 15 participants will be admitted to the course. Those interested must file their applications for admission and fellowship by Sept. 6. Forms may be downloaded from http://cfj.ateneo.edu <http://cfj.ateneo.edu/> or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph, and submitted by fax at 926-3254. For inquiries, call 926-3253 or 426-6001 (local 5215).

Calling all Grades 5-6 and third and fourth year high school science enthusiasts from NCR. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. will hold the **Math-Sci-A-Ka**, a whole day workshop-activity on Sept. 11 at UP Diliman, in celebration of the National Science Club Month. PSYSC also conducts Beginners' Appreciation of Science Clubbing Seminar for free. Interested parties may contact PSYSC at No. 7B Esteban Abada St., Loyola Heights, QC or call 920-8174 and 920-9561.

X-manila

Media educator and practitioner Alan Pelayo will hold a one-day **Seminar on Professional Writing for the Mass Media** on Sept. 11, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Starmark Café, Naga City. A 2003 CMMA Awardee for Outstanding Newswriter in English of the Archdiocese of Caceres, Pelayo teaches mass communication subjects at the Universidad de Santa Isabel and is the Philippine Daily Inquirer correspondent for Camarines Sur. Limited to 50 participants, seminar fee is P300 inclusive of snacks, lunch, handouts, kits and certificates. For details and reservation, call (054) 472-1442 or 0918-6162939.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

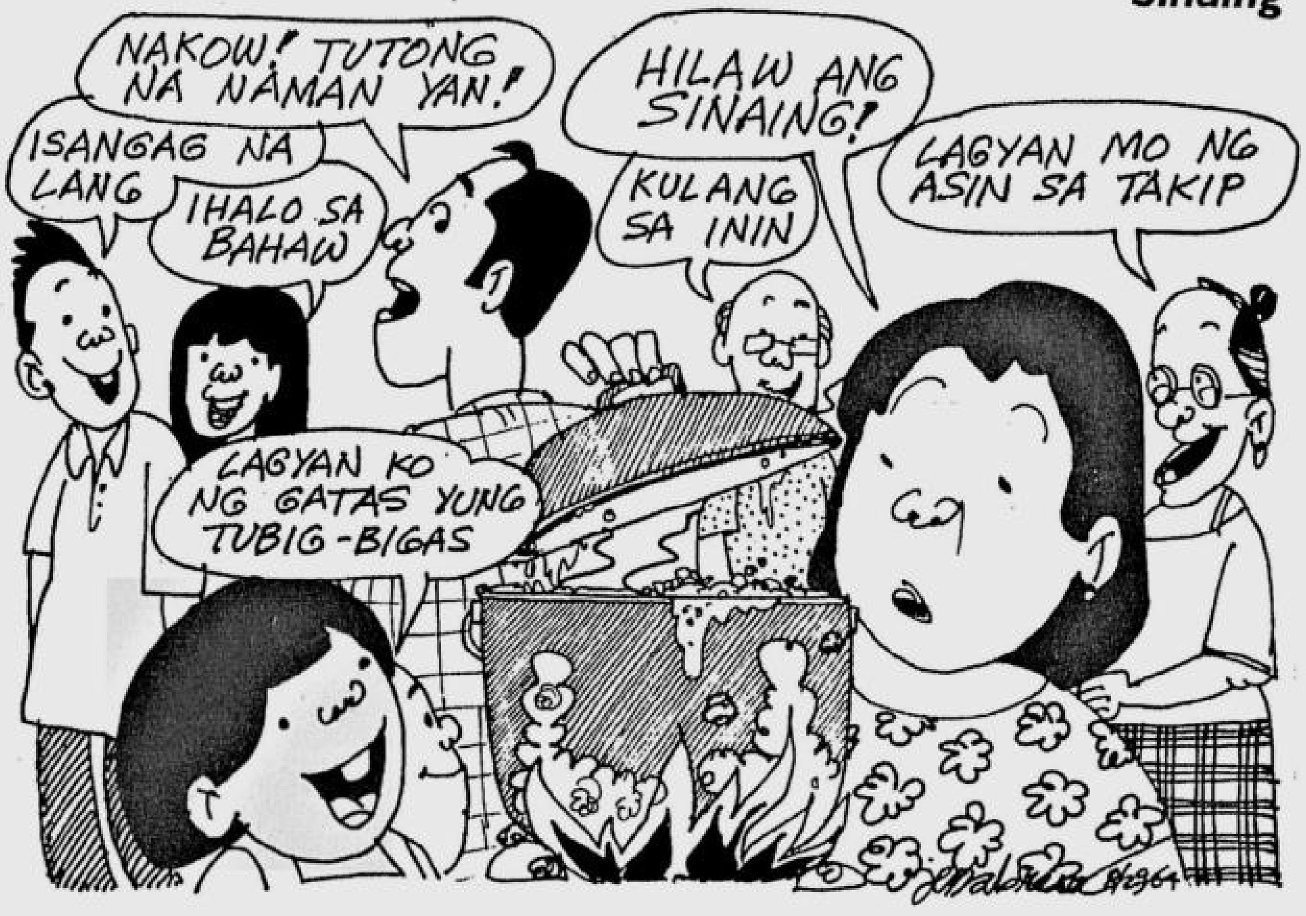
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Sinaing


NAKOW! TUTONG NA NAMAN YAN!
ISANGAG NA LANG
IHALO SA BAHAW
HILAW ANG SINAING!
KULANG SA ININ
LAGYAN MO NG ASIN SA TAKIP
LAGYAN KO NG GATAS YUNG TUBIG-BIGAS

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

Theater of the Absurd

In the post 9/11 theater of the absurd, where no auditions are necessary, the immigrant is assigned the role of visible and easy target on which a clueless U.S. government can vent its xenophobia

NEW YORK—Beginning most significantly with the Bush administration's sustained assault on civil liberties, there have been many ongoing casualties of 9/11. Among these have been immigrants of color.

Subjected to mostly baseless suspicion and harassment—whether from the government or from paranoid individuals who still view difference as an incipient threat to their way of life—these immigrants have unenviably been transformed into a crucial flashpoint in the seemingly endless global war on terror that the Bush administration, in its self-appointed role of global cop, has presented as inevitable and necessary. Such assessments most of the world disagrees with, along with a growing number of Americans disturbed and depressed by official mendacity and crony capitalism that have led to the quagmire in Iraq, which in turn has further inflamed already volatile Muslim extremists' feelings towards the US.

Immigrants and visitors from the Middle East have of course borne the brunt of institutional and informal racism and paranoia, as have Muslims from elsewhere. (And Arab-Americans as well have felt the knife-edge of resentment.) Not as well known is the plight of Pinoy immigrants here. You would think that, being the "second front" and ally in the war on terror, and with GMA's quick-footed tango to the tune of US foreign policy, Filipinos would have been viewed with considerably more expansiveness by federal authorities.

Au contraire. The more things change, the more they remain the same. Even as Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo last year self-servingly lauded each other in their revival of a dormant military relationship—really the core of what is glibly referred to as "special relations" between the two countries, damaged (or simplified, depending on your point of view) when Congress voted in 1991 not to renew the US Bases Treaty—Filipino immigrants were already being targeted as part of a broad government campaign against would-be terrorists in their midst. For those who profess to still being shocked, shocked, by this treatment of the "little brown brother," this has been a wake-up call. The most important part of that phrase, after all, has always been those two adjectives. As for fraternity or mutual respect, well, as they say in Queens, fagehdabahtit! Such attributes, if they ever existed, have joined the list of 9/11 casualties.

I know several Filipinos who, to varying degrees, have been affected negatively by post-9/11 paranoia; I'm positive almost everyone in immigrant communities of color and not just in the Filipino enclaves knows of similar cases. To cite just three: The husband of a good friend (an American citizen) was deported because he hadn't shown up for an appointment with the authorities to formalize his status. Just recently, a Filipino filmmaker was detained and questioned by agents at Los Angeles International Airport, since his passport indicated he had passed through the Middle East. Had he not mentioned that his brother happens to be a diplomat in one of the region's countries, he could have been held in secret detention indefinitely, with his family in the dark as to his whereabouts. A Muslim scholar/activist from Mindanao a few months back was refused entry into the country at LA—that airport again!—even though he had been officially invited by the Asia Society in New York to participate in a conference on the situation in Mindanao, and even though he had a visa issued by the US embassy in Manila. Consequently, other invited conferees declined to attend, out of solidarity with the man. In the aftermath, the president of the Society wrote a letter of protest to the government, and so the conference may yet go through. While this scholar is not an immigrant, his case indicates how the spirit of a witch-hunt seems to have possessed the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Then there is the well-publicized case of the Cuevas family, 19-year residents of Fremont in California. Two months ago, due to their undocumented status, despite a vigorous legal battle, support from various groups, and massive publicity in their favor, the two parents and three adult children (by all accounts hard-working and responsible members of their community) were forced to pack up and return to Cebu, their lives carefully built up over two decades now in shambles. While indications are they will be fine economically, psychologically of course this arbitrary dislocation has been both shameful and traumatic.

Not just individuals and families but whole classes have been affected. Nationwide, non-citizen Filipino airport workers, for example, lost their jobs (1,000 alone in San Francisco) when post-9/11 legislation mandated that these posts be held by citizens; such positions were deemed too security sensitive to be left to permanent residents. And yet standing next to such a worker could be a fully armed, green-card-holder of a National Guardsman, or member of the armed forces, whose units have become key to airport security, doing essentially the same job as the airport screener but potentially capable of turning his or her gun on innocent civilians—such destructive possibilities on the part of a non-citizen after all surely the (albeit unreasonable) reason for the new law.

By no stretch of the imagination can such acts be described as friendly (unless viewed, of course, as "friendly fire"). With friends like this, who needs enemies? And so it is disingenuous and hypocritical, in the case of the withdrawal of Philippine troops from Iraq, for the US to pompously decry this as being unworthy of friends. Especially disingenuous, considering that shortly after US embassy officials in Manila held forth from their bully pulpits, 89 Filipinos were deported en masse. Such deportations are likely to increase. Robyn Rodriguez, immigration scholar in the Bay Area, and active in the drive to help the Cuevas family, believes these deportations are "linked to the Philippines' troop withdrawal." More importantly, as he points out, in times of crisis, whether because of a failing economy and/or war abroad, immigrants are viewed as scapegoats.

Indeed, in this theater of the absurd, where no auditions are necessary, the immigrant is assigned the role of visible and easy target on which a clueless government can vent its xenophobia. One can hardly blame the immigrant nowadays for looking over his or her shoulder, uneasy at how a drama seems to be spinning out of control.

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